

Hafa Adai!

Claiming ineffective counsel, woman sues for her early release. **PAGE 3**  
'Not all DC policies applicable to NMI' **PAGE 5**

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## 'Trump backs NMI economic growth'



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, meets with President Donald Trump at the Oval Office of the White House.  
SHEALAH CRAIGHEAD

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

President Donald Trump has expressed support for the continued growth of the CNMI economy, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres following his meeting with the President at the Oval Office on Tuesday afternoon (Wednesday morning, Saipan time).

As recounted by Jason Osborne, the representative of the Office of the Governor in Washington, D.C., Torres met with Trump at 5:15pm

**See TRUMP on Page 4**

### 2 alleged Beilida leaders stopped at Saipan airport

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Two alleged leaders of two groups of Chinese workers, mostly illegal workers assigned at the ongoing construction of the Imperial Pacific Re-

» **Half of 500 Beilida workers allegedly came in as tourists**

sort in Garapan, were stopped from leaving Saipan yesterday.

Xiufang Qi and Wencai Guo, of Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd., were

**See BEILIDA on Page 4**

## Cabrera is acting DLNR head

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Former House speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera, who currently heads the Division of Parks and Recreation, has been named acting secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources after the untimely passing of the late Richard B. Seman. Cabrera received his appointment



Cabrera

papers yesterday, signed by acting governor Victor B. Hocog.

"Following the sudden and unexpected passing of the late secretary of Lands and Natural Resources Richard B. Seman, I am delegating the position of acting secretary to Parks and Recreation Division director Eliceo D. Cabrera."

**See CABRERA on Page 4**

## 'PSS has no wish to compete with the hospital on nurses'

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System is committed to having nurses in schools but fears it may step on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s toes as the latter is always on the lookout for nurses.

When asked last week whether

Public School System schools still consider clinics as part of the system, Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero explained that the school nurses are a necessity, similar to school officials such as the principals, librarians, and teachers.

"I completely agree, we should have a nurse at every school," said

**See PSS on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

A stunning 59.6 carat diamond known as the "Pink Star" sold for \$71.2 million.

**PAGE 14**



### NATION

Immigrants say many people in their home countries are staying home.

**PAGE 14**



### WORLD

A chemical weapons attack in northern Syria kills dozens of people.

**PAGE 16**



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# Local

## MVA improves Forbidden Island Lookout

As part of its ongoing destination enhancement in the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority has completed improvements to the Forbidden Island Lookout in Kagman.

The iconic lookout has grown in popularity in recent years, but the existing fence line had fallen into disrepair and was a safety hazard. The MVA stepped in in February to remedy the situation.

"Forbidden Island is now



A new fence at the Forbidden Island Lookout has been installed by the Marianas Visitors Authority as part of its ongoing destination enhancement on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. MVA

a major visitor site for both sightseers and hikers alike," said MVA Product Development manager Tatiana Babauta. "When we first assessed the situation there, the lookout was in terrible shape and was a safety hazard. The new fence is a great improvement. However, we urge everyone to use common sense and exercise caution when visiting the site, because it is a cliff line. Stay behind the

fence for your own safety."

The fence was completed by AA Construction. The Saipan Mayor's Office also assisted with fixing the road and providing corals to the site. Due to a large amount of household trash found at the

site, the Division of Parks and Grounds provides trash collecting services.

This fiscal year, the MVA has earmarked \$1.2-million for destination enhancement, with ongoing projects on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. *(MVA)*



A new fence at Forbidden Island Lookout has been installed by the Marianas Visitors Authority as part of its ongoing destination enhancement on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. MVA

## Bill seeks to penalize bringing in and harboring of illegal workers

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) has authored a measure that aims to impose fines and other penalties on companies that bring in foreign workers illegally.

House Bill 20-57 was introduced during Monday's session at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

HB 20-57, if it becomes a law, would authorize the CNMI Department of Labor to enforce criminal penalties and provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act particularly Section 274 in

bringing in and harboring certain aliens.

The proposed law stems from recent reports that certain contractors working on the casino hotel project in Garapan have hired workers who entered the CNMI as tourists.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has sought the help of the Department of Homeland Security to authorize local enforcement agencies to implement federal immigration laws following the controversy involving MCC International. *(Jon Perez)*

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hyatt Regency Saipan Rooms director Rosalyn Quintanilla; Hyatt Regency Saipan F&B director Tyrell Pauling; Bank of Hawaii officer and service manager Joseph Fujihira; Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa; and Bank of Hawaii vice president and branch manager Rose T. Sumor.

## Bank offers \$15K prize for Hyatt golf classic

In a first of its kind and the largest donation by Bank of Hawaii, the company is offering \$15,000 as a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The prize will go to whoever makes a hole-in-one on hole No. 3 of the LaoLao Bay's west course during the tournament, April 22, 2017.

"Bank of Hawaii has been a part of the CNMI for 46 years. As a member of the community, we understand the importance of corporate responsibility and therefore we take every opportunity to work with our partners to provide support in as many ways possible. The mission of the Hyatt to care for others in our community sends a strong message, a message we believe in as well. It's the community that helps us thrive, and it's through our efforts together, that we keep our community thriving. Thank you, Hyatt Regency Saipan, for the opportunity to

once again participate in the charity golf classic," said Joseph Fujihira, bank officer and service manager.

"The foundation of our Hyatt Thrive organization is built on the understanding that through actions large and small, we have a big impact on the lives of the people in our communities. Our annual golf classic allows for us and our business partners to directly impact our community," said Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa. "Bank of Hawaii has been our business partner for many years now. This year, the Charity Golf Classic turns 21, and that is a very important year in our lives. So we are thankful for Bank of Hawaii's donation of a \$15,000 cash prize for Hole No. 3. Their generosity adds a very special touch to the tournament, and, may one lucky golfer hit that hole-in-one. It's all for a notable cause—to support our island community."

Hyatt Regency Saipan will hold its 21st Annual Char-

ity Golf Classic event at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort west course on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Hyatt Regency Saipan event page website: <http://bit.ly/2jF0Men>. Early bird registration is open until Monday, April 17, 2016, at 4pm for a rate of \$100 per golfer. For more information contact 234-1234 Ext. 26. (Hyatt)



## Claiming ineffective counsel, woman sues for her early release from prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A woman who is serving a 20-year prison term for running over her former husband and assaulting him with a frying pan is suing for her early release from prison, claiming she was deprived of effective assistance from her previous counsel on appeal.

Carmelita Guiao, through Joseph E. Horey, asked the Superior Court to grant her petition for a writ of *habeas corpus*.

Guiao named acting DOC commissioner Lino Tenorio as a respondent in her application for writ of *habeas corpus* filed yesterday in court.

Horey said a criminal defendant has the right to effective assistance of counsel. He said Guiao did not get this in her appeal. In fact, he said, the CNMI Supreme Court declined to even consider the merits of her appeal because it was ineffectively presented.

Court records show that attorney Vicente T. Salas served as counsel for Guiao

in that appeal.

Horey said the high court found that Guiao's briefs were devoid of legal analysis and authority.

Horey said a person is unlawfully imprisoned, and entitled to a writ of *habeas corpus* when he or she is imprisoned despite being denied effective assistance by appellate counsel. The lawyer said Guiao is in that situation.

In August 2012, a jury found Guiao guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon. The court found her guilty of assault, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace. The case pertains to her assaulting her common-law husband with a hot frying pan on New Year's Eve.

She was sentenced to a total of 20 years imprisonment. She appealed her convictions. In 2015, the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed Guiao's assault with a dangerous weapon conviction and reversed her assault conviction in the hot frying pan case. The matter was remanded to the Superior Court for a new trial. Guiao remains incarcerated.

## Training on 'customer service'

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions present "Customer Service Excellence" a training seminar that will be conducted on April 20, 2017, from 9am to 12pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor).

Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited.

To register, call 234-7150 or email [coordinator@saipan-chamber.com](mailto:coordinator@saipan-chamber.com). (PR)



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## TRUMP

From Page 1

Tuesday (7:15am Wednesday, Saipan time) at the White House and the meeting was witnessed by chief of staff Reinhold “Reince” Priebus.

Osborne accompanied Torres to the White House and he had a separate meeting with the deputy chief of staff to the president, Rick Dearborn, while Torres was with Trump.

“President Trump asked how the economy was in the CNMI,” Torres said.

The governor used the meeting to press for two issues critical to the CNMI economy: the continued implementation of the parole-in-place that allows Chinese visitors to the CNMI and the need for the CW program to continue, as the need for labor is critical to the economic success of the CNMI.

Trump and Priebus reportedly committed to working with Torres.

“I told the President that there is continued growth and progress in the last few years and that the economy continues to grow,” Torres said in his response to Trump. “We need your assistance Mr. President with the Chinese visa waiver program.”

According to Torres, Trump immediately turned to Priebus, and said: “We need to do what we can to continue the economic growth in the CNMI. Take care of my friend.”

Priebus told Trump that

work has begun to help address the need to strengthen the CNMI’s economy, with the Chinese parole-in-place being a critical component.

Many infer that the ability of Chinese tourists to enter the CNMI without a visa refers to a visa waiver program. In truth, of all the tourists that enter the CNMI, only the Japanese and Korean tourists are able to do so under the visa waiver program; they only need to show their passports. Chinese and Russian tourists enter under the parole-in-place authority of Customs and Border Protection officers.

### HANMI speaks

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh could still remember the lean years that the CNMI experienced a decade ago: tourist arrivals were down, economic activity was slow or stagnant, business closures, and people were leaving to find jobs in other places.

She said CNMI officials should continue to ask top leaders in Washington D.C. that the visa programs, parole authority and visa waiver, should continue for the Commonwealth’s survival. “The importance for the growth and survival of our only economy is reliant on the continuation of these programs.”

“From 2007 through 2011 we had visitor arrivals of less than 400,000 annually. During these times we experienced closures of many

businesses and an exodus of many of our people that had to leave in order to find work elsewhere,” Cavanagh told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI’s lowest point was in 2009 where gross domestic product hit -17.5 percent. The economy, however, slowly recovered behind a revitalized tourism industry and was at 3.5 percent in 2015, based on the last year’s data reported by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Cavanagh joins the rest of the community—business, private, and government, etc.—in welcoming the great economic turnaround the CNMI has made with the help of the Chinese tourism market, which is one of two main sources of visitors for the Commonwealth, along with Koreans.

Chinese outbound travelers made a huge jump from 7.1 million in 1995 to over 133 million last year, a close to 200 percent increase buoyed by gains by the world’s second largest economy. More than half of outbound Chinese tourists are millennials who are looking for other destinations and to experience new things.

Cavanagh said hotel occupancy continue to increase, as can be seen in the last four months, with the influx of Chinese travelers. “Currently, the CNMI is enjoying hotel occupancy rates of over 90 percent the last four months.”

“Without [China], we would be expecting occupancy rates

in the 60’s. It was not too long ago when we saw these kinds of numbers. It is just recently where our arrivals hit over half a million,” added Cavanagh.

Cavanagh welcomes the efforts of Torres in letting key officials of the Trump administration know about the CNMI’s situation.

“It is very much an honor for us to have Gov. Torres meet with our new President. I trust that the governor was able to present our concerns regarding the parole-in-place for the China market,” she said.

### Welcome meeting

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) welcomed Torres’ meeting with the President as it would help efforts in finding solutions to critical issues that affect the CNMI. “Gov. Torres called me early [Tuesday] evening after his meeting with the President.”

“Chinese tourists make up the second largest market in the Northern Marianas and I support the governor’s efforts to maintain our access to that market.”

Torres’ trip was part of the administration’s continued efforts to air the CNMI’s concerns regarding immigration and labor. Seeking support in continuing to attract Chinese tourists was one of the purposes of his meeting with the President.

Trump even remembered Torres for being the first governor from a U.S. territory that supported and endorsed

his candidacy in last year’s elections.

“This is the first governor to endorse me; he is a long-time friend,” the President greeted Torres upon entering the Oval Office.

Torres’ meeting President Trump is unprecedented, the first time that an sitting U.S. President has opened the doors of the Oval Office for a territory governor.

Separately, Osborne disclosed that on Wednesday (Thursday, Saipan time), he will meet with Department of Homeland Security and White House senior policy advisers “to reiterate the importance of Chinese [tourism].”

### Zinkie’s support

Following the White House

meeting, Torres met with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinkie.

“Today is just an amazing day for us. We also met with Interior Secretary Zinkie and he assured us of his support to the CNMI’s initiatives to sustain its growth and development,” Osborne separately said.

The governor extended his invitation to the interior secretary to visit the CNMI. Zinke accepted and committed that his office will now work on the details of his schedule for his impending visit.

Zinke is expected to visit the CNMI this summer, the second time that a highest federal official has visited the islands in 10 years. Then-Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne visited Saipan in 2007.

## PSS

From Page 1

Deleon Guerrero. “The position of school nurses have always been a very important part of what we do and what we are as PSS.”

However, appointing a nurse to every school has its own set of challenges, the top of which is funding.

“PSS remains cognizant of the fact that over the years, the funding amount given to PSS did not support many full-time-equivalent employees, or FTE’s,” said Deleon Guerrero.

The PSS budget request for fiscal year 2018 amounts to \$54 million

It has already been submitted to the Office of the Governor and the Legislature. PSS is now waiting for the identification and appropriation of funds.

At the same time, Deleon Guerrero does not wish “to pull away [nurses or certified clinical assistants] from the hospital.”

“We are revisiting that and we are looking at what the personnel needs are [for the schools],” she said.

CHCC has its own personnel struggles. A recent reports states that almost 200 CHCC employees are set to exit the CNMI by the end of the year due to the lack of appropriate visas.

## BEILIDA

From Page 1

arrested on charges of unlawful employment of aliens and bringing in and harboring certain aliens. It isn’t clear yet when they are going to be taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI for their initial appearance.

As of yesterday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested a total of three persons and charged three more in connection with the search of MCC International and Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd. offices last week.

MCC is a construction contractor for Imperial Pacific’s multi-million-dollar resort and casino project in Garapan. Beilida Overseas is a subcontractor of MCC.

FBI special agent Joe W. McDoulett filed yesterday separate affidavits in support of criminal complaints and arrest warrants against Qi and Guo.

In a search by the FBI at the offices of Beilida last Thursday, the FBI discovered several spreadsheets in Chinese titled “Beilida Complete Personnel Accommodation Statistics Chart,” McDoulett said.

The agent said the spreadsheet featured a column titled “Visa Type,” which listed over 150 workers as *hei gong*, a term to mean “undocumented worker.”

In the column titled “Team,” the listed workers are divided into teams assigned to named individuals, one of which is defendant Qi and the other is Heping Xu. Guo is also under Heping Xu’s team.

Qi’s team consisted of more than half of the listed “*hei gong* workers.”

McDoulett said a comparison of a random sample of names designated *hei gong* with current records from Customs and Border Protection confirmed that those individuals were visa parolees, and therefore not authorized to work.

The agent said Qi’s and Guo’s names also appear on the personnel list, and their visa type is CW.

McDoulett said subsequent “Beilida Complete Personnel Accommodation Statistics Charts” covering the period from March 7, 2017, and March 24, 2017, changed the designation under “Visa Type” from *hei gong* to “AAA.”

McDoulett said a compari-

son of these three spreadsheets confirmed that individuals previously identified as *hei gong* on the Feb. 7, 2017 chart, were the same individuals later identified with “AAA.”

Last Jan. 20, a Beilida worker made a written statement to Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division on Saipan, in which he claimed to have been an employee of Beilida from Nov. 6, 2016, as a construction worker.

The Beilida worker came to Saipan as a tourist. Another Beilida worker introduced him to Qi after his arrival on Saipan. Qi promised the worker 10,000 RMB per month for his employment.

At Qi’s direction, the worker provided his passport to Qi on Nov. 5, 2016. At the time of his statement, the worker had not received any payment.

Qi was allegedly responsible for assigning Beilida’s workers at the construction site to four subordinate team leaders.

Another Beilida worker provided a statement to Labor last March 13. He was allegedly recruited in China via a WeChat job advertisement for construction work on a casino on Saipan.

Upon arriving on Saipan, he was assigned to a workers’ barracks where he met Qi.

More than half of the 500 workers for Beilida came in as tourists. Approximately 260 of those workers are under the supervision of Qi. All Beilida workers provided their passports to Qi.

Last March 27, another Beilida worker provided a statement to Labor, in which he claimed to have worked for Beilida from Aug. 19, 2016, to March 25, 2017.

The worker said four team leaders operated under Guo’s supervision. Guo’s group consisted of 180 workers, while Qi’s group consisted of 280 workers.

The worker estimated that of the 180 workers under Guo, about 80 to 90 percent were tourist visa holders.

FBI arrested last Saturday MCC project manager Yuqing Zhao, 42, on the same charges. Also charged but have yet to be arrested as of yesterday were Hui Lu, 32, Hongwei Ma, 25, and Pei Ruan, 28.

Lu is president and director of Beilida Overseas. Ma claimed she is an employee of Marianas Enterprises Limited, but worked in the Beilida office.

## CABRERA

From Page 1

Cabrera until further notice,” said Hocog in Cabrera’s appointment letter.

“Please extend your full cooperation to Mr. Cabrera as he assumes these additional duties and please keep the family of our late Secretary Seman in your thoughts and prayers.”

Seman passed away Tuesday morning. He is survived by his wife Lorraine and children Vinyia, Richard, Jon, Anthony, Lorisha, and grandchildren.

Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* that he has big shoes to fill but would do his best to perform his additional duties.

“I just learned of my appointment earlier this day. I’m going to spend my time also at the main office while also performing my duties as Parks and Recreation director,” said Cabrera.

“I’m truly honored being chosen to head the DLNR in an acting capacity. I thank Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog for their trust and the opportunity they gave me to head the department.”

Cabrera was the House speaker in the 17th CNMI Legislature.

He said there are four others who are also capable of filling in for the late DLNR secretary in an acting capacity to head the department.

“All of us are capable of filling in for Secretary Richard. We’ve been working together for a long time now and again I’m on an acting capacity until further notice.”

He added that they would fully support whoever Torres appoints as Seman’s permanent replacement at DLNR.

Cabrera said that he is still in disbelief about Seman’s untimely death. “When I heard the news, I thought it was just a bad dream. But I went straight to the hospital to be with his family and that is when I learned that he really passed away.”

“I even spoke to him two days ago and now he’s gone. It’s so nice to work with him because you can always see him smile and he was a friendly person. You could always talk to him anytime, about work or to just catch up.”

“We were like brothers. We almost grew up together and our families know each other. His number one passion is taking care of our environment and preserving it for the future generation.”



## Saipan power outages on April 7, 8

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saipan on Friday, April 7, 2017, from 5am to 6:30am, and on Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am.

### MHS gym prepares for repair work

After being idled by Typhoon Soudelor for more than 18 months, the Marianas High School gymnasium will soon start seeing some repairs.

Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero said during last week's parent summit that the gym is being cleared out now for repairs.

"A lot of the items inside the gym were damaged, so in order for the contractors to move forward with the project, they need to clear out the existing items in the gym," she said.

Deleon Guerrero hopes the repair work would be done by the end of 2017. That means

MHS seniors for the Class of 2017 would be graduating at a different venue, same as the MHS Class of 2016's graduation last year.

The MHS gymnasium, which was first erected in 2001 with a budget of \$2.8 million, was heavily damaged by August 2015's Typhoon Soudelor. The gym has yet to see repairs since then.

MHS is the high school with the largest population.

In an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera said

The purpose of the power interruption on Friday is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to

in February 2017 that issues surrounding the delay of the repairs include getting the materials to the island. Back in February, Cabrera disclosed that construction would start soon and "hopefully be done by September or October."

According to Deleon Guerrero, the repairs and renovations of the gym would only be that—repairs and renovation—as the gym is already a state-of-the-art facility.

"We are restoring it to what it used to be," she said. **(Erwin Encinares)**

safely perform system upgrade on the Kiya 3 and Kiya 4 distribution circuit. This requires a power outage on sectionalized area of the Kiya 4 distribution circuit.

Chalan Kiya will be affected. The Duenas water well would also be affected, as well as the W-5 wastewater lift stations. The Chalan Kiya traffic light would also be affected.

The purpose of the Saturday power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow CUC line crew to safely replace five wooden power poles with concrete poles along Alageta Road in Kagman II. This is part of an ongoing Hazard Mitigation Program to strengthen and harden the integrity of

the power distribution system throughout Saipan.

Kagman II would be affected. The water wells for the entire Kagman village would also be affected. These includes the KG-7, KG-8, KG-9, KG-14, and KG-15 water wells.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed on both days, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor the CUC Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(CUC)**

### 'Not all DC policies applicable to NMI'

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) remains hopeful that officials in Washington, D.C. would carefully study the 902 report that was submitted to Congress and respect the recommendations made by both panels that finalized it.

Demapan, who was part of the CNMI panel in last year's 902 talks, said that not all federal policies that's being crafted and implemented in Washington, D.C. are applicable here.

"Sometimes, in federal policy, what's good for D.C. and the U.S. mainland is not good for the CNMI. ...But that's just the way things work. This is how things work with our remote location. We're not attached to the mainland and that makes it more challenging for our economy to thrive. We need to look at creative and innovative solutions, and part of that is the parole and visa waiver program," he said.

Demapan used to chair the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs in the 19th Legislature, where he had the chance to join Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and other CNMI leaders in several meetings with Washington, D.C. officials, especially during the administration of former Pres-

ident Barack Obama.

"If there's any part of those recommendations that would move forward, it would require congressional action and that would need legislation by Congress. When it gets to that stage, it is going to be our job to make that we push again and make them understand why those recommendations are in there," he said.

He said the Trump administration's strict guidelines on immigration pose a big concern for the CNMI. "We understand that their view on immigration is generated and based on the issues that are happening in mainland," he said. "We're hopeful that they understand our views, because our views...are based on our need to capture visitor arrivals and the source market that have been coming here."

Demapan added that unlike in the mainland, where there are other industries that fuel their economy, tourism is the CNMI's primary economic drive. "And if we lose this because of immigration reform or policy, then what will happen to our economy?"

He said CNMI officials should also be mindful on the CNMI's infrastructures if it has the capacity to host bigger number of visitors. **(Jon Perez)**

### AMP selected for teacher training program

For the second year in a row, American Memorial Park was one of 34 parks from across the National Park Service to be selected to participate in the Teacher Ranger Teacher Program.

The purpose of the program is to provide teachers an opportunity to learn about NPS educational resources and themes while earning continuing education graduate credits through a partnership between the NPS and the University of Colorado-Denver.

Participating teachers will spend several weeks in an immersive, on-site experience at American Memorial Park, developing and implementing a community pro-

gram as well as completing three graduate credit hours of coursework in Experiential Learning online. Upon completion of the program, teachers will receive a \$3,000 stipend from the university.

Applications for the program can be picked up at American Memorial Park Visitor Center or by email. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2017. To request an application, or to learn more about this program, contact Ranger Brooke Nevitt at: [brooke\\_nevitt@nps.gov](mailto:brooke_nevitt@nps.gov) or Pacific Historic Park education partner Jovannalyn Mafnas at 234-7207 x 2020 or [jmafnas@pacifichistoricparks.org](mailto:jmafnas@pacifichistoricparks.org). **(NPS)**

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Survivors, caregivers support meeting**

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. support meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Room. Guest speaker is Dr. Kenneth Pierson of the SDA Dental Clinic. His topic is: "Oral Cancer Prevention, Early Detection & Screening." To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

**Navy, Air Force training on FDM**

The U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on April 6 from 10am to

7:30pm and on April 7 from 12:30pm to 7:30pm. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

**Quiz Nite this Saturday**

In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, the Autism Society of the CNMI is hosting its annual Quiz Nite on Saturday, April 8, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan from 6pm to 10pm. If you are interested in attending or would like to make a contribution, contact (670) 234-7150 to purchase a ticket. For more information

regarding the Autism Society of the CNMI, contact Tom Thornburgh at tomthornburgh@gmail.com. (PR)

**Register now for Chamber's Corporate Challenge**

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Corporate Challenge will be held on May 28, 2017, at the Minatohom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is inviting Chamber member businesses to join in the competition to win the title of Corporate Challenge champions. The Chamber is now accepting company team registrations. Space is limited to the first registered teams. The deadline for registration will be on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 5pm. To register now, or for more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com for more information or

visit [www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com). (PR)

**GTC Elementary sets Kinder registration**

Kindergarten registration at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School for school year 2017 – 2018 is now open, from 8:30am to 11:30am and from 1pm to 3:30pm. Registration will take place in the school's main office (in the cafeteria). There are only 40 slots available, and registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. Children entering Kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 30, 2017. All required documents must be submitted in order for your child to be on the roster. For more information, call 664-3400. (PR)

**Participants sought in research**

Those who participated in

the Pacific STAR Center for Young Writers project in 2006 are being invited to take part in a research project conducted by a CNMI resident Jennifer Furey Maratita. In 2006, young writers were asked to contribute to a book, titled *We Drank Our Tears: Memories of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian as Told by Our Elders* (Tuten-Puckett, 2004).

Maratita's research questions will focus on the understanding of the impact this project had and its relevance in your life nowadays. The impacts of shared narratives across generations in the CNMI are of special concern. For more information, email Maratita at jennifer.maratita@waldenu.edu or call/text (670) 483-3879. (PR)

**Ji Hoon Lee graduates from basic training**

U.S. Air Force airman Ji Hoon Lee has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values,

physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Lee is a 2016 graduate of Saipan Southern High School. (PR)



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Garapan Saipan MP 96950 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

For more information please send us an email at: [events@bccnmi.com](mailto:events@bccnmi.com) or give us a call at: 670-322-2222



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**  
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

## INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-17-IFB-006

### SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF STOREFRONT DOOR/WINDOWS FOR THE OFFICE OF AGING, ROTA

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Storefront Door/Windows for the Office of Aging, Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 23, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

**Breach of Ethical Standard**

- Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor.
- Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order.
- Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 12, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 27, 2017** to Mr. **Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. **Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 2, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 2, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 2, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 11, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 16, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 2, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred (US\$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA  
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director of Procurement & Supply



## 'NMI is still Zika-free'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Zika virus, an arbovirus that is transmitted through mosquitoes, has been making its rounds in the CNMI's neighbors, including Kosrae, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and American Samoa. Thankfully, since its first outbreak in Florida last August, the CNMI has remained Zika-free.

Warren Villagomez, the guy assigned to prepare the CNMI in case an outbreak does occur here, warns that once Zika is found in an area,

as evidenced by other countries with Zika, it "would be very hard to eradicate."

According to Villagomez in last Monday's proclamation signing declaring April as "Fight the Bite" Month, it is essential for the whole community to know that allowing mosquitoes to breed easily is harmful.

Villagomez, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. director for Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program, urges the public to get rid of stagnant water

## Public warned of high surf until Friday

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a small craft advisory is in effect until 6am Friday.

A high surf advisory is also in effect until 6am Friday.

Combined seas of 7 to 10 feet and winds of 15 to 20 knots with frequent gusts of 25 knots will continue through early Friday morning.

Meanwhile, a large north swell is moving through the Marianas waters. The north swell has increased to a range of 6 to 8 feet. This is large

enough to produce hazardous surf on north facing reefs.

Waves and surf along north facing reefs has risen to hazardous levels of 7 to 10 feet. Surf will remain at these levels through early Friday morning, then gradually subside below hazardous levels.

There will be a high risk of rip currents along north facing reefs and beaches along with the possibility of minor beach erosion.

The public is being encouraged to continue being proactive in keeping their families and community safe. *(Saipan Tribune)*



Acting governor Victor B. Hocog signs the proclamation declaring April as "Fight the Bite" Month to continue raising awareness and cognitive knowledge of the Zika virus and other arboviral diseases. Zika is a virus borne by infected mosquitos. The CNMI, however, remains Zika-free.

ERWIN ENCINARES

around homes every week.

Other measures include removing trash and empty containers that could hold water regardless of the size; wear mosquito repellants; wear long-sleeved shirts and pants outdoors during dawn and dusk, and refrain from travelling to countries with Zika outbreaks while pregnant.

The Zika virus' most harmful effects to the body are the birth defects caused by the virus. The virus is

known to cause serious complications to the unborn baby, such as microcephaly and a rare neurological disorder called Guillain-Barre-Syndrome, or GBS.

Microcephaly is a condition where a newborn's head is smaller than normal, causing a hindrance to the brain development of the child. GBS on the other hand, is an inflammatory disorder of the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord, causing one diagnosed with

GBS to experience numbness in the hands and feet before developing further into something life-threatening as weakness may possibly develop in the breathing muscles.

"There is no vaccine against this disease and there is no cure for the birth defects as a result of the virus, so prevention is the only [solution]," said state epidemiologist Dr. Paul White.

"We have one of the mosquitoes that transmits Zika, but

we do not have evidence that Zika is reported in the CNMI. We are the only jurisdictions in the Pacific [along with Guam] that does not have the arboviruses Zika, dengue, and chikungunya," said White.

White said that entomologists, or scientists that specialize in insects, say that mosquito eggs could stay out of the water for about six months, so the need for constant supervision of the home is important.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Social change and economic disappointment create an epidemic of 'deaths by despair'

Two years ago, Princeton University economists Anne Case and Angus Deaton disclosed a shocking finding: Between 1999 and 2014, middle-aged (45-54) white Americans with a high school education or less died at a rate never before seen in a modern industrialized society.

Alone among every other demographic group they studied, this group's life expectancy was shrinking. The group's annual mortality rate jumped from 281 per 100,000 to 415 per 100,000 during the 15 years studied.

Big reasons: Striking increases in the number of suicides, drug overdoses and liver disease caused by alcohol poisoning. Case and Deaton called them "deaths by despair."

Now the two scholars have returned to try to explain why this is happening. In a report published by the Brookings Institution, they suggest that while income inequality and wage stagnation may play a background role, a lifetime of "cumulative disadvantage" catches up with this demographic.

They are the slice of the population who hit the job market as low-skill jobs were being mechanized, computerized and globalized. They grew into adulthood as cohesion-building social institutions like marriage, family and churches became weaker. Often they didn't have spouses, pastors, work buddies or kids to back them up.

They did have opioid painkillers, which Case and Deaton say "added fuel to the flames, making the epidemic much worse than it otherwise would have been." They cite a study from the Boston Federal Reserve that found that among men not in the labor force, nearly half are taking pain medication, most often by prescription.

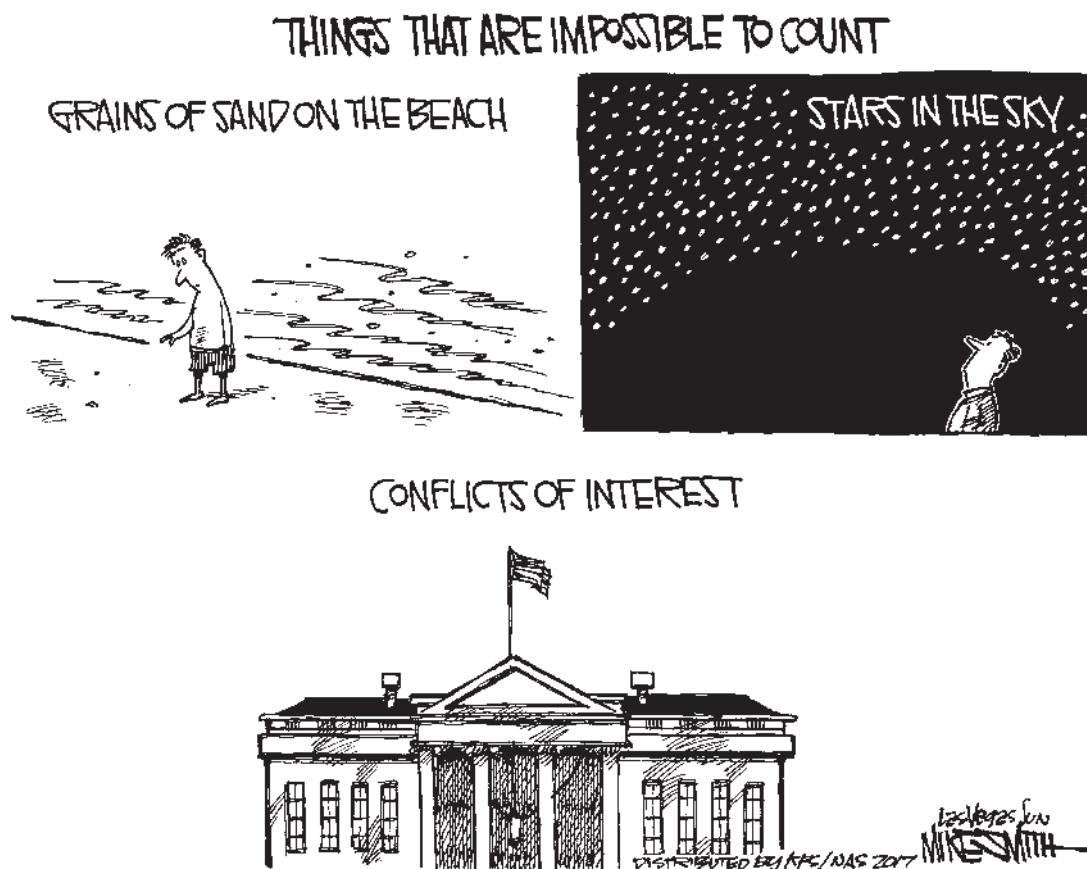
Case is a professor of economics and public affairs; Deaton, her husband, was the 2015 Nobel laureate in economics. They admit their research is not a "smoking gun," but it has ominous implications:

"This account, which fits much of the data, has the profoundly negative implication that policies, even ones that successfully improve earnings and jobs, or redistribute income, will take many years to reverse the mortality and morbidity increase, and that those in midlife now are likely to do much worse in old age than those currently older than 65."

Obviously the same forces affecting low-income middle-aged whites also affect poor educated middle-aged blacks and Hispanics. But mortality rates are decreasing among those groups and they don't suffer high rates of deaths by despair. The authors speculate that expectations may be higher among whites, leading to greater disappointment when things don't work out.

Many of these folks put their faith in Republican promises of help, and the GOP owes them something. Addressing opioid addiction is a place to start. So is keeping the social safety net intact. GOP politicians can boast about bringing back jobs and passing right-to-work laws, but voters must hold them accountable if they make things worse for the people the corporate economy has left behind.

(c)2017 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



## THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

### Public warning announcement: 'Can You Hear Me' scam

By **MICHAEL J. CYGANEK**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" seeks to urgently inform, caution, and educate all Commonwealth consumers and businesses about a new type of advanced predatory phone scam known as the "Can You Hear Me" scam.

#### How does the "Can You Hear Me" scam work?

The Federal Communications Commission is alerting consumers to be on the lookout for scam callers seeking to get victims to say the word "yes" during a call and later use a recording of the response to authorize unwanted charges on the victim's utility or credit card account.

According to complaints received by the FCC and public news reports, the fraudulent callers impersonate representatives from organizations that provide a service and may be familiar to the person receiving the call, such as a mortgage lender or utilities provider, to establish a legitimate reason for trying to reach the consumer or business.

The scam begins when the fraudster calls and a person answers the phone. The fraudster then asks the person "Can you hear me?" Naturally, the person responds by saying "yes" which the fraudster records in order to obtain a "voice signature." After obtaining the voice signature, the fraudsters use the voice signature to impersonate the consumer or business in order to authorize fraudulent charges via telephone.

#### What should I do to protect myself?

■ **If you receive this type of call:** Immediately hang up!

■ **If you have already responded to this type of call:** Review all of your statements such as those from your bank, credit card lender, or telephone company for unauthorized charges. If you notice unauthorized charges on these and other types of statements, you have likely been a victim of "cramming."

■ **Anyone who believes they have been targeted by this scam:** Should quickly report the incident to the OAG (contact details below) and FCC Consumer Help Center (<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers>).

In efforts to best protect all Commonwealth consumers and businesses from becoming victims of the "Can You Hear Me" scam and all other types of phone scams (especially during tax season), the OAG strongly urges and respectfully requests that

all consumers and businesses:

1) **Be on the lookout:** Act cautiously if you are going to answer calls from unknown numbers (see "Please Note" section for considerations). We also must be mindful that our time difference relative to the continental U.S. may subject us to receiving these calls when we are tired in the early morning or late at night.

2) **Spread the word:** Spread the word to your families and friends and/or through social media.

3) **Follow the FCC's General Tips on How to Avoid Unwanted Calls and Scams:**

a. Do not answer calls from unknown numbers. Let them go to voicemail\*\*\*.

i. \*\*\*Please Note: Unfortunately, here in the CNMI, one of the main cell phone providers does not offer Commonwealth consumers the basic cell phone service of voicemail services, which the FCC here justly provides a tip assuming voicemail services are part of nearly every cell phone package, which is the case in the continental U.S. Moreover, just like voicemail services in the CNMI, one of the main cell phone providers here does not offer Commonwealth consumers the basic cell phone service

of "call waiting." In considering how to best apply this fundamental FCC tip to avoid being scammed in light of these service limitations, it is difficult to give a hard rule of thumb. On one hand, although most fraudulent calls come from unknown numbers, consumers also receive very important calls from unknown numbers (e.g., hospital, etc.). In sum, it is hard to say whether to completely avoid answering calls from unknown numbers in light of many Commonwealth consumers not having voicemail services, which would act as an easy fix to this predicament.

b. If you answer and the caller (often a recording) asks you to hit a button to stop receiving calls, just hang up! Scammers often use these tricks to identify, and then target, live respondents.

c. If you receive a scam call, write down the number and file a complaint with the OAG and FCC so we can help identify and take appropriate actions to help consumers targeted by illegal callers.

d. Ask your phone service provider if it offers a robocall blocking service. If it does not offer this service, encourage your phone service provider to offer one. You can also visit the FCC's website (<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/stop-unwanted-calls-texts-and-faxes>) for information and resources on available robocall blocking tools to help reduce unwanted calls.

e. Consider registering all of your telephone numbers in the

See SCAM on Next Page



# Ban on texting while driving not the solution

By MARK DAVIS

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Those of us who have long argued against specific bans on texting while driving have hinged our logic on various concepts, mostly the nightmare of enforcement.

Can an officer tell if someone is texting or just glancing at GPS or even checking the time? Should a ban extend to those behaviors as well? And these questions arise before anyone makes a point about the state seeking to micromanage additional layers of driver behavior.

These are all worthy parts of the conversation, but they are now placed in the direct path of one of the most powerful forces that can arise in any debate: an enormously emotional event that causes hearts to overflow, flooding away countless philosophical bullet points.

Thirteen people are dead in a South Texas church bus crash because of one driver's decision to text while zooming down a highway. A motorist behind the speeding, weaving pickup called 911 to alert authorities and then watched as the 20-year-old plowed into the bus filled with seniors from First Baptist Church in New Braunfels.

The witness rushed to the pickup and the bus in time to hear the pickup driver cry out, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I was texting."

It is the kind of thing that can make countless people call for a texting ban immediately. The logic of the pained heart says: If we can save lives, let's do it.

I am not immune. Unlike gun grabbers who argue for second amendment incursions as though they would actually save lives, texting-ban advocates are probably right. By definition, we get less of the behaviors we outlaw.

So do the benefits of a texting ban simply outweigh the arguments against it? Shall we just wave aside the arguments about liberty and problematic enforcement and pass a ban in the hope that we see far fewer accidents like this? The appeal is understandable. Haven't we all dodged the occasional idiots with their faces in their screens on our streets and highways every day?

Thankfully, there is a better idea.

Texting while driving is prevalent because we have not attached proper consequences to its dangerous results. Rather than craft an unfathomable list of things we can and cannot do with our devices, and rather than saddle police with the absurd burden of clairvoyance, we should affix a solution to the actual problem of hazardous behavior by texting drivers.

We already have penalties for reckless and negligent driving. Police actually can discern if texting was the cause of a crash; when that happens, penalties need to be immediate and severe.

An annoying ticket is not as likely to dissuade this habit as seeing a litany of jail terms handed out to people stupid enough to willfully endanger fellow drivers. If we get serious about penalties for the actual damage caused by texting and driving, we send a resonant message without the drawbacks of the various bills that have meandered through the Texas Legislature.

This will be challenging, in the same way that it is hard to get serious about drunken driving. In both cases, lawmakers are hesitant to stigmatize behaviors that many of them are guilty of, and if not them, scads of their constituents.

A tragedy does not turn a bad idea into a good idea. Our grief over the bus crash should not compel bad lawmaking, especially when there is a better solution at hand—if we have the courage to enact it.

*Mark Davis is a radio host in North Texas and a frequent columnist for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at markdavisshow@gmail.com.*

# Investigation into Russian tampering must be honest

WASHINGTON—Forget about the House intelligence committee when it comes to investigating whether Russia stuck its snout into our election.

The panel, as led by its Republican chairman, Devin Nunes of California, with the support of GOP leadership, has lost any credibility now and in the future.

Nunes has capitulated to President Donald Trump, in whose pre-election camp he was an early riser, and seems to have no intention of letting the Russian connection bring down his hero's presidency. Meanwhile, Speaker Paul Ryan and others of the House Republican hierarchy have already poured enough white-wash on the committee to satisfy Tom Sawyer's Aunt Polly for the rest of her life.

In 50-some years of watching the political passing parade in this town, I have never seen a more brazenly dishonest performance by a committee chairman. Even if he decides ultimately to recuse himself from leading the inquiry that now may or may not happen, the damage has been done, with the smell of dishonesty indelibly imprinted on the public nostrils.

What an unbelievable performance. Only a sap would swallow Nunes' cloak-and-dagger research, which is obviously aimed at helping the Donald show Barack Obama wiretapped his telephones—an allegation not supported by evidence, denied by everyone, and clearly designed to both back up the new president and obscure the Russian investigation. The congressman claims he had a secret nighttime meeting on the White House grounds with a source who said there was incidental surveillance

of Trump by an official agency eavesdropping on someone else.

Was the meeting with one of the uniform Secret Service guards who prowl the grounds? Was it a bunny getting ready for the April Easter egg roll? Or has that too been canceled like so many other traditions? Maybe it was some guy with kind of orange, goofy hair.

What we do now know is that three well-placed White House aides compiled the material Nunes was presented.

The House, except for impeachment, never has been good in delving into possible scandals of this size. Members who face election every two years are too vulnerable to partisan influence. The Senate is a far better venue for getting at the truth and putting pressure on those who will. The leaders of the bipartisan Senate intelligence committee—Republican and Democrat—have pledged to put differences aside to work together on the disturbing allegations of foreign influence in our electoral process. That's nice to hear, since things haven't always worked that way in the Senate. (Democratic leaders notoriously successfully pulled every string possible in saving then Vice President Lyndon Johnson in the notorious Bobby Baker case in the 1960s.) The six-year length of a Senate term provides a better cushion from partisan discipline and the ability to take a longer look at the evidence.

The model for modern bipartisan Senate investigations of this magnitude was the Watergate Committee with Democratic Chairman Sam Ervin of North Carolina and Republican Vice Chairman Howard Baker of Tennessee sharing responsibilities equitably. Although the target, Richard Nixon, was of his par-

By DAN K. THOMASSON

Tribune News Service

*Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomas-sondan@aol.com.*



ty, the most famous line came from Baker, who set the tone by stating that it was the committee's responsibility to determine, "What did the president know and when did he know it?" Nixon's ultimate resignation turned on that point.

The main complication of the Russian investigation, of course, is that it is considerably far more serious in its implications than anything yet seen. Even Nixon's fall dealt with less threatening circumstances. That was a domestic challenge to the sanctity of the electoral process. These allegations, if true, would forever raise concerns about the security of our elections from disruption by a foreign power. To be a bit melodramatic, images of the "Manchurian Candidate" appear.

Even if a clear conclusion can't be reached, Americans need to know that every attempt possible was fairly and honestly made to determine the truth.

Impossible? Perhaps. But with guys like Nunes around, perseverance and a proof of diligence are the only answers.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## The American dream

I was very glad to hear the governor reiterate what I have been saying to my critics: Stop throwing rocks from the boonies and the sidelines and become part of the solution. He even made an appeal for everyone with a good idea to present it to his office, which is a clear indicator of his intent to work with anyone regardless of their party affiliation in the best interest of the CNMI. I still remember the best principal I ever worked with, Juan L. Babauta, when we opened Kagman High under his leadership. In our first meeting he said to us, "If you have any concerns, please bring them to me but don't come crying and complaining to me *without* a solution to *your* concerns." I share this because the governor was right about the rock throwing, which I even used to be guilty of when I first started writing but I have learned it is far more productive to get on the team and be part of the solution even if you have to be a "free agent walk-on" like I'm trying to be with legalization and some other issues.

We also have an excellent "non-political" AG for legal and corruption concerns in government and "flying rock" letters will *never* fix anything because I know about rocks thrown at me and I'm still standing tall and strong, so think about it the next time you want to throw a rock at the administration because rock throwing talk is cheap and it's definitely *not* a solution.

The governor covered a lot of ground in his speech that I can't cover in this short letter but one thing for true that ran like a thread throughout the entire address was the governor's ability to "look beyond the horizon" on issues and see the direction that we should be headed on many issues. He is giving us a real chance to be one people, headed in one direction, to find real prosperity! His address was well thought-out and extremely informative, demonstrating genuine leadership on where the CNMI came from, to where we are now and where he plans to take us. The governor is clearly taking us on a quest for prosperity in every way of life and business in the CNMI and we should all be thankful and supportive of his leadership. He also made it clear that "if you are manipulating our laws and con-

ducting criminal activity" that we (the government and DPS) will get you. Right on!

I can honestly say, the future looks bright for the CNMI under Governor Torres' leadership and the American dream is alive and well in the CNMI. We can best serve our government and help ourselves by helping the governor instead of throwing rocks that don't serve any purpose but to cause delays from frivolous distractions. Flying rocks have never stopped much of anything, they just makes things slow down. While there is nothing wrong with genuine complaints about our government there are those who just throw rocks for the sake of throwing rocks—sore losers playing dirty politics after the election. But I can't finish this without recognizing Mrs. Torres for her great job in revitalizing the role of the first lady and the governor for doing a great job. I hope he will continue to keep hope alive, for the American dream to be a reality for everyone living in our Commonwealth, so we can be great too!

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

## SCAM

From Page 8

National Do Not Call Registry (<https://www.donotcall.gov/>).

The FCC is the federal agency that implements and enforces the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the FCC reviews all consumer complaints. The FCC will continue, when appropri-

ate, to issue consumer alerts based on those complaints and other public information related to possible scams and frauds in hopes of informing and empowering consumers.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program shares Federal Trade Commission and/or FCC publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes.






If you would like to file a consumer complaint, pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer\_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

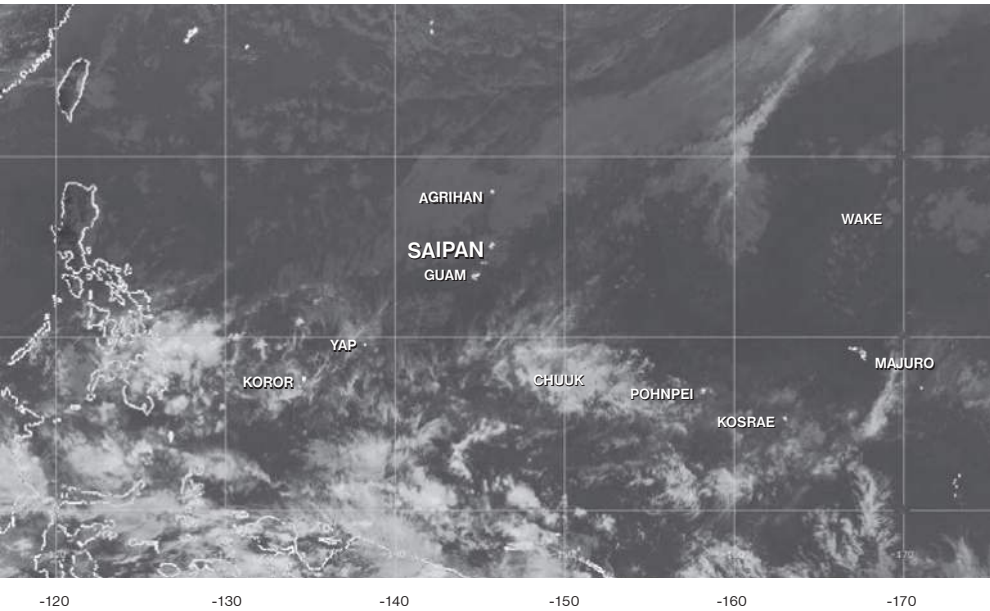


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy skies with gusty winds.	Partly cloudy.	Partly cloudy in the morning. Increasing clouds with periods of showers later in the day.	Rain showers early with some sunshine later in the day.	Isolated thunderstorms in the morning, then partly cloudy late.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 8:44 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Weak trade-wind disturbance will make the skies partly sunny to mostly cloudy, possibly until Thursday night. Then, on Friday if not a little earlier, skies will clear out and dry season will return in full force. Winds will ease a little as the shear line retreats back to the north. North swell of around 5 feet is raising combined seas to between 6 and 9 feet in the Marianas waters. Surf is estimated at 6 to 8 feet on north facing reefs. These are both below advisory criteria, but only just barely. Mariners and beachgoers should keep informed on the weather in case advisories do become necessary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88	78 °F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85	78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	86	72 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86	80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86	79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85	79 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86	80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68	61 °F
Beijing	Sunny	78	52 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	78	70 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	83	70 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	62	43 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	82	57 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	92	76 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	78	56 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	89	60 °F
New York	Rain	53	43 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	66	62 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	57	38 °F
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	67	46 °F
Rome	Sunny	64	46 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60	49 °F
San Francisco	Thunderstorms	64	56 °F
Seoul	Cloudy	55	43 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	65	58 °F
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	67	42 °F



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:52 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.78
10:37 AM	LOW TIDE		1.03
3:34 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.59
10:40 PM	LOW TIDE		0.07

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:25 AM	2:18 PM
Friday	-	3:13 AM	3:12 PM
Saturday	-	3:58 AM	4:04 PM
Sunday	-	4:41 AM	4:55 PM
Monday	-	5:22 AM	5:45 PM

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN				SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat		7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily		1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily					

6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily					

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	



# First aid training for Imperial Pacific staff

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Learning and Development recently provided first aid, CPR, and Automated External Defibrillator training certification to employees from food and beverage, cage, finance, sales and marketing and lobby ambassadors, among other departments.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International staff does a demonstration for the rest of the class.



Participants pay close attention to the instructor. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



First aid instructor Ed Johnson ensures that participants use proper techniques. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Imperial Pacific International staff take turns to practice the skills learned during the CPR segment of the course. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO




Imperial Pacific International staff practice how to take care of an injured individual. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International employees have their picture taken after the first aid, CPR and AED certification course organized by the Corporate Learning and Development Department.




## Know your Tides

A CITIZEN SCIENCE PHOTO CONTEST

### Environmental Awareness Month: BECQ/DCRM

## “Eco-friendly from the mountain to the sea”

**Climate Change and Tides:**



Climate change will cause sea levels to rise. Most of this water will be stored in the Pacific Ocean, and islands like Saipan will feel the effects. In the future high tides will come more landward than they currently do. Future low tides might start where today's high tides stop.

We can document this long term change through photographs and tide charts. Each of these serves as a record of tidal change. Documenting high tides now can help us know how future sea level rise might affect us.

**Photographs**

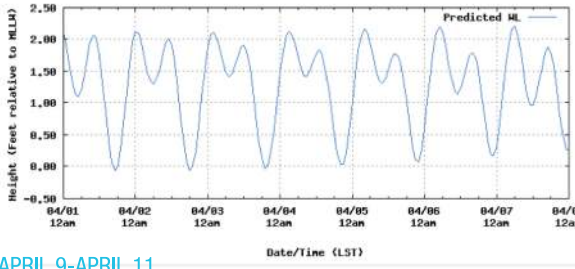
Please upload your photo of high tide or low tide from April 1—April 9 for Environmental Awareness Month. Photographing tides is one way to help planners and natural resource managers prepare for the impacts of climate change. Ideally, you'll want your image to capture the highest water line or the lowest water line. However, all images and associated data are helpful for the objectives of the Citizen Science project.

Take your photo facing parallel to the shoreline. If available, include some sort of feature in your picture – wall, bunkers, docks, or rocks make good markers.

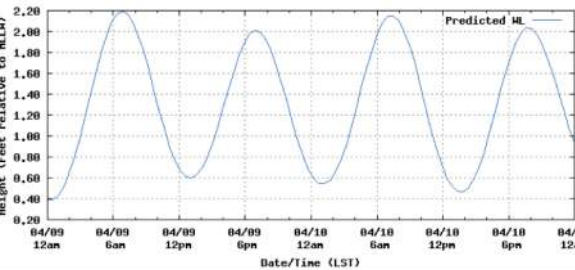
How these photos are used:

1. Document current tidal change in coastal areas
2. Visualize the impacts of future sea level rise in the community
3. Ground-truth and validate models by comparing predictions with reality.
4. Serve as a living record of change for future generations

**APRIL 1-APRIL 8**



**APRIL 9-APRIL 11**






NOAA Tide Charts: Tanapag Harbor, Saipan Island, Station ID 163327

Rules

**Open contest dates are: April 1 – April 9, 2017**

**Submit:**  
All photos must be uploaded by 12:00 am April 10, 2017.  
Facebook, Instagram, twitter.  
Label: #KnowYourTides#DCRM#EAM  
Facebook, Instagram, twitter

**Caption:** Date, Time, Location, Your Name, HighTide/LowTide  
\*\* All tides must be accurately marked to win.

**Categories:**  
General Public, 9-12 grade, 6-8th grade.  
General Public –1st, 2nd, 3rd, Most likes  
9-12 grade: 1st, Most Likes  
6-8 grade: 1st, Most likes

**Judges:** Chelu Photography, BECQ

**Prizes:** A take home 12x18 canvas print of your photo  
Your photo displayed at BECQ/DCRM events  
on a 3" x 4" canvas





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**\$239<sup>95</sup>**

NINJA MASTER PREP BLENDER  
**\$59<sup>95</sup>**

TAIZHOU 8PC. LIVING ROOM SET  
**\$6,499<sup>95</sup>**

GIBSON-HOLLOWAY 20PC DW SET, WHT DECAL, CERAMIC  
**\$29<sup>95</sup>**

DOREL 3 SHELF BOOKCASE  
**\$29<sup>95</sup>**

ESSENTIAL HOME DELUXE OFFICE  
**\$69<sup>95</sup>**

TGF WALL CLOCK  
**\$4<sup>95</sup>**

ESSENTIAL HOME TWIN SIZE BUNK BED  
**\$259<sup>95</sup>**

ESSENTIAL HOME SANTIAGO 5PC DINING SET  
**\$129<sup>95</sup>**

EH CRUZ FUTON  
**\$129<sup>95</sup>**

STOR 5 TIER WIRE SHELF  
**\$59<sup>95</sup>**

ESSENTIAL HOME TWIN SIZE BUNK BED MATTRESS  
**\$69<sup>95</sup>**

GRACIOUS LIVING LOW BACK PLASTIC CHAIR  
**\$10<sup>95</sup>**

NORTHWEST TERRITORY MESH CHAIR  
**\$12<sup>95</sup>**

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ZEE'S T2G0 COLLAPSIBLE DISPENSER 3.5L  
**\$3<sup>95</sup>** **SAVE \$5.00**

NORTHWEST TERRITORY SIERRA DOME 9FTX7FTX46" TENT  
**\$35<sup>95</sup>**

SNORKEL SET  
**\$19<sup>95</sup>**

CHILDREN'S POP UP PLAY TENT W/TUNNEL  
**\$11<sup>95</sup>**

BABY SWING YX004-1  
**\$12<sup>95</sup>**

UNITED SOLUTIONS 2PC SINK SET  
**\$6<sup>95</sup>**

GIBSON - 8PC NESTING BOWL SET, MULTI-COLOR  
**\$25<sup>95</sup>**

BBQ PRO 22.5" ROUND KETTLE GRILL  
**\$59<sup>95</sup>**

KENMORE 18 CU.FT. REFRIGERATOR  
**\$699<sup>95</sup>**

ARDSLEY 3PC SPACE SAVER BATH SET  
**\$33<sup>95</sup>**

HAMILTON BEACH COUNTERTOP OVEN WITH ROTISSERIE  
**\$79<sup>95</sup>**

BICYCLE 20" 611-5  
**\$129<sup>95</sup>**

CRAFTSMAN 5GAL 3 HP WET/DRY VACUUM  
**\$59<sup>95</sup>**

ROUGH & RUGGED 35GAL TRASH CAN W/ LID  
**\$19<sup>95</sup>**

PREMIER 1 CU. FT. ALL PURPOSE POTTING SOIL  
**\$6<sup>95</sup>**

ALPO COME 'N GET IT 52LB DOG FOOD  
**\$39<sup>95</sup>**

DAHDOUL 15PC BATH SET  
**\$15<sup>95</sup>**



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# Business

## Owe the IRS? Tax man's coming

WASHINGTON (AP)—The IRS is resuming the use of private debt collectors amid a wave of telephone scams in which fake government agents tell innocent taxpayers to pay up or face jail, the tax agency announced Tuesday.

The IRS stopped using private debt collectors in 2009 after the agency determined that IRS employees could better do the work. But Congress passed a law in 2015 requiring the IRS to restart the program.

The IRS says it will soon start turning over the accounts of 100 taxpayers a week to four private debt collectors. The program will grow to 1,000 accounts a week for each firm by the end of summer.

The firms can keep up to 25 percent of what they collect.

To combat fraud, the IRS says it is sending letters to taxpayers alerting them that their accounts are being turned over to private debt collectors. The private companies will then send letters to the taxpayers

before calling them.

"The IRS remains extremely concerned about the many con artists out there who masquerade as IRS employees or contractors," said Mary Beth Murphy, who heads the small business and self-employed division at the IRS.

"We urge everyone to be on the lookout for scammers who might use this program as a cover to swindle taxpayers," she said.

Since the fall of 2013, more than 1.9 million people have received unsolicited telephone calls from fake government agents, according to the inspector general for tax administration. The callers demand money, saying the victim owes unpaid taxes. To date, over 10,300 victims have paid more than \$55 million to the criminals.

The IRS has said the scam is so widespread that multiple criminal organizations are taking part.

In October, the Justice De-

partment announced charges against 61 defendants in the United States and abroad in connection with call center operations based in India.

Callers worked off scripts posing as agents for the IRS or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They told unsuspecting victims that they had failed to pay taxes or were at risk of deportation, and that a fast payment was needed to get out of trouble.

Murphy offered several tips to detect con artists.

"No one will hear from a private collection firm unless they have unpaid tax debts going back several years and they've already heard from IRS multiple times about this debt," she said. "We don't collect taxes on iTunes cards or gift cards, and we don't do it with aggressive, threatening phone calls."

"We will never use a phone call to threaten to bring in the police or have someone arrested," Murphy added.

## Pink diamond fetches \$71.2M in auction



In this Wednesday, March 29, 2017, file photo, the "Pink Star" diamond, the most valuable cut diamond ever offered at auction, is displayed by a model at a Sotheby's auction room in Hong Kong. AP

HONG KONG (AP)—A stunning 59.6 carat diamond known as the "Pink Star" sold for \$71.2 million at a Sotheby's auction Tuesday in Hong Kong, setting a new world record for any diamond or jewel, according to the auction house.

The oval mixed-cut diamond smashed the \$60 million pre-sale estimate set by Sotheby's when it went on the block.

The sale comes three years after the gem was sold at an

even higher price at another Sotheby's auction in Geneva. That deal later fell apart after the buyer defaulted.

The gem is the largest flawless fancy vivid pink diamond ever graded by the Gemological Institute of America.

Three telephone bidders competed for the stone during five tense minutes of bidding. The crowd in the packed auction room applauded when it was sold for a hammer price of \$63 million, not including

the buyer's premium.

Sotheby's Asia Chairwoman Patti Wong said the winning bidder was Hong Kong jeweler Chow Tai Fook.

Until now, the most expensive diamond ever sold at auction was the "Oppenheimer Blue," which fetched 56.8 million Swiss francs (then \$57.6 million) last May. The previous world auction record for a pink diamond was \$46.2 million for the 24.78 carat "Graff Pink" in 2010.

# Nation

## Steep drop in border arrests



In this May 11, 2016, file photo, Tim Foley shows how to climb a section of the border wall separating Mexico and the United States near where it ends as journalists Chitose Nakagawa, right, and Marcie Miekko Kagawa look on in Sasabe, Ariz. AP

MCALLEN, Texas (AP) -- Just five people were eating dinner on a recent weeknight at a Texas church that is a stopping point for newly arrived immigrants on the U.S.-Mexico border. On a typical night last year, hundreds of immigrants might come through the church.

Immigrants who are still coming say many people in their home countries are staying home amid fears about President Donald Trump's immigration rhetoric, putting off coming to the U.S. until they see how his policies play out.

"There are mothers who heard that Trump might change the law to remove parents and keep the children here," said Jose Gonzalez, a 29-year-old father of two from El Salvador. "That stopped a lot of people."

The first months of the new administration have seen a huge drop in the number of people being caught by agents on the U.S.-Mexico border, raising the possibility that a "Trump effect" is keeping migrants away.

Fewer than 12,500 people were caught at the southern border in March, the lowest monthly figure in at least 17 years and the second straight month that border arrests dropped sharply. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, in testimony submitted to a Senate committee, called the decline "no accident" and credited Trump.

But those working in shel-

ters and experts on migration say it will take several more months to judge whether any drop-off is lasting, and that the numbers could surge again as quickly as they've fallen.

Trump's vows to step up deportations and build his signature border wall were widely spread in Central America, according to three migrants who recently arrived in Texas and spoke to the Associated Press. Kelly also announced last month that authorities might start separating adults and children crossing the border, to deter families from trying to enter the U.S.

For years, tens of thousands of migrants every month would cross the United States' southern border. Traffic has surged in recent years of people crossing into Texas from three Central American countries torn by gang violence and poverty: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Former President Barack Obama's administration also publicized deportations and tried to dissuade Central Americans from heading north, particularly during the 2014 surge of families and children traveling alone to cross the border. Officials took credit when border arrests fell during his tenure, only to see the numbers rise again.

Some think the real "Trump effect" was pushing fearful people to move up their

journeys and get to the U.S. before he took office. Border arrests in October, November and December increased by about a third compared to the same period in 2015, before falling this year.

"The election and the possibility that the wall, everything was going to happen, encouraged them to come now," said Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, which operates the shelter at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in McAllen.

Trump focused on the constant flow of migrants from the start of his campaign, when he denounced border crossers as criminals and rapists, and repeatedly promised to build a wall and step up deportations. His administration has started taking bids to build a wall and requested funding for more immigration judges and Border Patrol agents.

Most agree Trump's statements affected migrant traffic. Four shelters along the Texas portion of the border, where most crossers enter the United States, say they've seen their numbers fall to a fraction of what they were seeing late last year. And La 72, a shelter near the Mexico-Guatemala border, saw its numbers in February and March fall by nearly half compared to the same months in 2016, suggesting that fewer people are leaving Central America.



# Asia

## North Korea fires ballistic missile

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korea fired a newly developed powerful ballistic missile into its eastern waters Wednesday, U.S. and South Korean officials said, amid worries the North might conduct nuclear or long-range rocket tests ahead of the first summit between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping

this week.

The initial U.S. and South Korean assessments indicated it was a KN-15 medium-range missile, whose first publicly known test in February was considered by many foreign experts as a potentially worrying development. It uses solid fuel already loaded inside the missile, which would shorten launch preparation times, boost

the weapon's mobility and make it harder for outsiders to detect the signs of its liftoff.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had said after the February launch that the missile, called "Pukguksong-2" in North Korea, provided another nuclear attack capability against the United States and South Korea. Most of North Korea's missiles use

liquid propellant, which usually must be added on the launch pad before the weapon is fired.

The missile fired from land in the area of the eastern coastal city of Sinpo on Wednesday morning flew about 60 kilometers (37 miles), according to a South Korean military statement. The missile launched in February flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles), but it wasn't immediately clear if the shorter distance meant Wednesday's

launch was a failure.

North Korean state media said the "Pukguksong-2" missile is a surface-to-surface missile that can carry nuclear warheads. It is likely to be an upgraded version of the submarine-launched missile named "Pukguksong" launched last summer. Many

South Korean experts say "Pukguksong-2" missile would be a greater security threat because it can be launched anywhere from a ground-based mobile vehicle. While submarines are also a stealthy way to do that, North Korea doesn't have enough of them.

## Duterte's approval rating drops, but popularity remains high

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Results of an independent poll released Wednesday showed a drop in the number of Filipinos who trust President Rodrigo Duterte, although he



Duterte

was still considered trustworthy by three-quarters of the respondents despite an impeachment complaint pending against him.

Results released by Pulse Asia Research Inc. showed that 76 percent of the 1,200 respondents expressed trust in Duterte, down 7 percentage points from December. Some 78 percent of respondents approved of his performance, down from 83 percent.

The nationwide survey was conducted March 15-20—

around the time a lawmaker filed an impeachment complaint against Duterte because of alleged corruption and the thousands of deaths in the president's anti-drug crackdown.

Rep. Gary Alejano's complaint alleges that Duterte violated the constitution, committed bribery and corruption, and betrayed the public trust with his actions, including the crackdown, which has sparked extrajudicial killings. It also alleges that Duterte failed to declare huge bank deposits as required by law.

The impeachment bid faces an uphill battle, with the president's allies holding an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Bombing in east Pakistan kills 6, including census workers

**LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)**—Pakistani authorities say a suicide bombing in eastern Punjab province has killed six people, including two census workers and four soldiers escorting them. A local police official, Mohammad Afzal, says the attack took place on Wednesday morning on the outskirts of Lahore, the provincial capital. He says 15 people were also wounded in the blast. Malik Ahmad Khan, Punjab government spokesman, confirmed it was a suicide attack. No group immediately claimed respon-

sibility for the bombing.

#### Japan Cabinet allows schools to study banned imperial order

**TOKYO (AP)**—Opposition politicians on Tuesday criticized a decision by Japan's Cabinet to allow schools to study a 19th century imperial order on education that was banned after World War II for promoting militarism and emperor worship, saying it's a sign that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government is becoming more nationalistic. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters the Imperial Rescript on Education should be allowed as teaching material if it is used

in line with the constitution and the education law. The Cabinet adopted the policy Friday. He added, however, that schools should primarily follow the government-approved curriculum. Opposition politicians on Tuesday called the move unconstitutional and unacceptable.

#### Indonesia arrests man who bought orangutan, leopard, bear

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—Indonesian police say they saved a young sun bear, a clouded leopard and a baby orangutan from the wildlife trade after a tip from conservationists who tracked the illegal activities through

Instagram. Jakarta police spokesman Prabowo Argo Yuwono said Abdul Malik was arrested Tuesday in a raid on his southern Jakarta house where the animals were found caged. Malik told police he arranged for the purchase of the animals through Instagram messages and paid 25 million rupiah (\$1,900) for the orangutan, 15 million rupiah (\$1,125) for the sun bear and 60 million rupiah (\$4,500) for the leopard. Yuwono said the police were helped by conservationists who were tracking an Instagram account they believed to be a front for the illegal trade in threatened species. Police are still searching for the wildlife trader.

## RECRUITMENT DAY

Date: Friday, 7 Apr 2017  
Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Venue: Fiesta Resort & Spa  
Saipan, Banquet Hall - Azucena

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DEALER / DEALER TRAINEE	103
CARD ROOM ATTENDANT	13

#### DEVELOPMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

FACILITY TECHNICIAN	51
---------------------	----

#### SECURITY

SECURITY MANAGER	1
ASSISTANT SECURITY MANAGER	2
SHIFT SUPERVISOR	3
SENIOR SECURITY OFFICERS	9
SECURITY OFFICERS	29
CONTROL ROOM SUPERVISOR	4
CONTROL ROOM OPERATOR	2
ACCESS CONTROL SUPERVISOR	2
ACCESS CONTROL OFFICER	2
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# World

## Chemical attack kills dozens in Syria, US blames Assad

**BEIRUT (AP)**—A chemical weapons attack in an opposition-held town in northern Syria killed dozens of people on Tuesday, leaving residents gasping for breath and convulsing in the streets and overcrowded hospitals. The Trump administration blamed the Syrian government for the attack, one of the deadliest in years, and said Syria's patrons, Russia and Iran, bore "great moral

responsibility" for the deaths.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 58 people died, including 11 children, in the early morning attack in the town of Khan Sheikhoun, which witnesses said was carried out by Sukhoi jets operated by the Russian and Syrian governments.

Videos from the scene showed volunteer medics using fire hoses to wash the

chemicals from victims' bodies. Haunting images of lifeless children piled in heaps reflected the magnitude of the attack, which was reminiscent of a 2013 chemical assault that left hundreds dead and was the worst in the country's ruinous six-year civil war.

Tuesday's attack drew swift condemnation from world leaders, including President Donald Trump, who denounced it as a "heinous" act

that "cannot be ignored by the civilized world." The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting for Wednesday in response to the strike, which came on the eve of a major international donors' conference in Brussels on the future of Syria and the region.

In a statement, Trump also blamed former President Barack Obama for "weakness" in failing to re-



This photo taken on Tuesday April 4, 2017, by the Syrian anti-government activist group Edlib Media Center, that is consistent with independent AP reporting, shows a man carrying a child following a suspected chemical attack, at a makeshift hospital in the town of Khan Sheikhoun, northern Idlib province, Syria. AP

spond aggressively after the 2013 attack.

"These heinous actions by the Bashar al-Assad regime are a consequence of the past administration's weakness and irresolution," Trump said. "President Obama said in 2012 that he would establish a 'red line' against the use of chemical weapons and then did nothing. The United States stands with our allies across the globe to condemn this intolerable attack."

Trump left it to his top diplomat, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, to assign at least some blame to Russia and Iran, Assad's most powerful allies. Tillerson called on both countries to use their influence over Assad to prevent future chemical weapons attacks, and noted Russia's and Iran's roles in helping broker a cease-fire



Source: AP  
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

through diplomatic talks in the Kazakh capital, Astana.

"As the self-proclaimed guarantors to the cease-fire negotiated in Astana, Russia and Iran also bear great moral responsibility for these deaths," Tillerson said.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Investigators search Russian suicide bomber's home

**ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)**—Investigators say they have searched the home of the suspected suicide bomber behind Monday's deadly explosion on the St. Petersburg subway. The bomb went off on a train under Russia's second-largest city on Monday, killing 14 people and injuring dozens. Investigators said they suspect a 22-year old Kyrgyz-born Russian citizen, Akbardzhon Dzhililov, of having detonated the bomb. The Investigative Committee said in a statement in the early hours on Wednesday that the investigators searched the man's home in St. Petersburg. They also examined CCTV footage from outside Dzhililov's home which shows him leave home with a bag and a backpack. Another bomb, hidden in a bag, was found and deactivated at another St. Petersburg station just half an hour before the blast. Dzhililov's DNA was found on the bag.

#### Years of warnings

#### preceded deadly flood in southern Colombia

**MOCOA, Colombia (AP)**—People were caught off guard when a devastating flash flood surged through a small city in southern Colombia, but not everyone was surprised. Government agencies, land use experts, and environmental organizations had said for years that Mocoa could face dangerous flooding. Many who lived in the most vulnerable areas were aware of the warnings, even if they didn't heed them. And yet the city continued to spread into the floodplains west of downtown. "Unfortunately, in Colombia we don't have a good assessment of risk, or good land use policies to prohibit people from settling in areas like these," said Marcela Quintero, a researcher with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, one of the organizations that raised the alarm about deforestation in the area. Mocoa was vulnerable because of its location, amid a confluence of rivers in the wet subtropical Amazon region of southern Colombia.

### IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†*Guadalupe Masga Ayuyu Atalig*

*Better Known as "Lupe"*

Born to Life on March 04, 1944  
Born to Eternal Life – April 01, 2017

#### In her New Eternal Rest she now joins:

- Parents:** †Corbiniano Songao Ayuyu & †Francisa Mendiola Masga Ayuyu  
**Sister:** †Lorenza (Lori) Ayuyu Lidia, †Consolacion Atalig, †Carmen San Nicolas  
**Brothers:** †Thomas Masga Ayuyu, †Juan Masga Ayuyu  
**Parents-In-Law:** †Guillermo A. Atalig & †Juana Quitugua Atalig  
**Brothers-In-Law:** †Domingo Q. (Rita T. Atalig), †Pedro H. Hocog, †Ramon M. Taimanao  
**Sisters-In-Law:** †Maria T. Atalig, †Dolores T. Hocog, †Maria B. Atalig

#### Her memory will live in the hearts of her:

- Husband:** Joaquin Quitugua Atalig  
**Children:** Kent William Ayuyu & Genevieve Bustos Atalig & Children  
Annette Joyce Ayuyu Calvo-Tudela (Eddie Tudela) & Children  
Carl A. Atalig (Joaquin F. Atalig II)  
**Brothers:** Crispin M. Ayuyu (Nacrina A. Barcinas) & Children, Lorenzo M. Ayuyu & Children, Pale' Isaak M. Ayuyu, Joseph M. Ayuyu  
**Sisters:** Rita A. Ramos (Andre M. Ramos) & Children, Balbina A. Mendiola (Adrian A. Mendiola) & Children, Juanita A. Cruz (Roman Cruz) & Children, Bertha Gundlach (Stanley Gundlach) & Children, Corona M. Calvo, Ana Mundo  
**Brother In-Law / Sisters In-Law:** Felipe Q. Atalig & Elvira Atalig, Ana A. Taimanao

Daily Rosary is being offered at San Francisco De Borja Church, Songsong Village, Rota at 7:00pm

On Monday, April 10, 2017, her body will be escorted from the Rota Hospital Divine Mercy Chapel to San Francisco de Borja Church at 6:30am, followed by the Responso and Holy Rosary. The Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be at 9:00am followed by the burial at the San Jose Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated!

*Joaquin Quitugua Atalig, Children and Family*



# Life & Style

## Envelope, please! Spelling bee will use test to break ties

### Collection of war letters preserves our military past

#### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR READERS:** Today marks the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I. In commemoration, I'm mentioning a special initiative to save America's war letters. Almost 20 years ago I wrote about a historian, Andy Carroll, who had launched a project to seek out and preserve war-related letters as a way of honoring and remembering our veterans, troops and their loved ones.

After the column appeared, Andy was deluged with responses. Today that collection holds approximately 100,000 wartime correspondences—from handwritten letters penned during the American Revolution and Civil War, to emails from Iraq and Afghanistan. Andy has donated the entire collection to Chapman University in Orange, California, and the project is now called the Center for American War Letters (CAWL).

This week, Andy and CAWL are kicking off an ambitious "Million Letters Campaign." Andy will travel nationwide speaking at public libraries, museums, VFW and American Legion posts, civic groups, places of worship, military academies and more to explain the importance of these correspondences and encourage people to share with him their own war-related letters and emails. If you know of someone who has war letters, please share this information so the stories and voices of the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our nation will be preserved.

Andy would love to meet in person anyone with letters to contribute to this "Million Letters Campaign" and is always seeking new venues. If you know of a place he should speak, email him about it. For families with letters who cannot attend, submissions can be sent to Andrew Carroll/CAWL Chapman University, One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866. (Originals are preferred, but scans are also appreciated.)

Ultimately, Andy and CAWL are seeking letters from ALL American wars, on ANY subject matter. For information on how to attend or invite Andy to your community, visit [www.WarLetters.us](http://www.WarLetters.us).

**DEAR ABBY:** My son, "Tom," is a senior in high school. About a month ago, he asked a girl named "Allie" to the prom. She said yes. Allie's mom is a hairdresser. My husband and I don't know her or her husband.

Allie's mother has asked two different people about us. One of them told us about it; the other I heard about secondhand. So last week I introduced myself to her at a local function. We spoke briefly, and I told her I would be in touch. A few days ago I called to invite her out for coffee and left a message with my phone number. She hasn't called me back. What can I do to get to know Allie's mother better?

PROM MOM

**DEAR PROM MOM:** Make an appointment to have your hair done, and you'll have at least an hour with her.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

**WASHINGTON (AP)—**The Scripps National Spelling Bee is adding a new wrinkle this year in an attempt to stop a streak of ties for the championship.

This year, the top spellers will sit for a written tiebreaker test before they begin spelling words in the primetime finale. The results will be revealed only if two or three spellers get through the final rounds unscathed. The speller with the highest score would then be declared the champion. Only if the top spellers get exactly the same score will the competition end in a tie.

The bee has ended in a tie three years running. Last year's was the most improbable.

The bee made the final rounds more than twice as long, with harder words, and two spellers still ended up hoisting the winner's trophy.

This year the top 10 or so spellers who make it to the final evening will have the written test added to their busy schedules. It will be taken in a small room away from the cameras, with 12 spelling words and 12 vocabulary words. The test will be similar to one that spellers must ace to get into the top 50—except more difficult. Spellers' results will be sealed in envelopes that are opened only if necessary, setting up a potentially dramatic new end to the competition.

The new rules were shared with spellers and announced Tuesday by Scripps. Bee organizers made the change after considering feedback from spellers, sponsors, fans and ESPN, which televises the competition from its longtime venue at a convention center outside Washington. This year's bee will be May 30-June 1.

"There is certainly a point of view that the level of competition has risen to a place where we are likely to see more co-championships unless we further raise the bar," Paige Kimble, the bee's executive director, told The Associated Press on Monday, ahead of the announcement.

Tejas Muthusamy, who'll be competing in the bee for the fourth and final time this year, told AP he likes the idea of the tiebreaker test, but he's not sure others will.

"I actually perform better on tests than on stage. For me specifically, the rule change is really good," Tejas said. "If I end up tied with someone else, I'll still have a good chance of winning."

Before 1998, the bee had no formal rules for how to declare co-champions, and the only previous tie was in 1962. It wasn't until 2014 that it happened again, but no changes were made following that result.

## Coldplay vocalist visits sick fan in Manila hospital

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)—**Coldplay's lead vocalist visited a fan with cancer on Tuesday, hours before the

group played a packed concert at Manila's seaside Mall of Asia Arena Concert Grounds.

Chris Martin visited Ken Valiant Santiago in a hospital where the medical student is battling cancer and spends much of the time listening to favorite Coldplay songs.

Concert organizer Rhiza Pascua tweeted a picture of

the meeting. "Chris Martin, you are an angel! Thank you for making Ken very happy!!" she added.

Santiago's brother, Kheil, earlier posted an appeal on Facebook for help in relaying a request to the band to say hello or send a short message to his brother, who bought a ticket but could not make it to

the concert. He was diagnosed with advanced cancer in February, Kheil said.

In a tweet, Ken thanked Pacua for making Martin's visit possible.

"Words can't even begin to describe how thankful I am," he said. "You've made my heart full of joy. Thank you so much!"

## Mel B accuses estranged husband of abuse in court filings

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Singer Mel B has won a temporary restraining order and sole custody of her youngest daughter after she claimed her estranged husband subjected her to years of abuse.

The judge's order was issued Monday after the former Spice Girl filed a sworn declaration stating Stephen Belafonte subjected her to emotional and physical abuse throughout their relationship, and threatened to leak sex tapes of her.

The singer, whose real name is Melanie Brown, wrote that Belafonte's abuse often occurred after high-profile events, including punching her following her appearance on Australia's version of "X Factor" in July 2012 and again days after she performed with the Spice Girls at the London Olympics.


Her filing contends Belafonte's actions have disrupted her career. She wrote that Belafonte was verbally abusive to her last year while she was on a trip to London during filming of "America's Got Talent." Brown is a judge on the series.

She also claims he filmed them having sex, sometimes secretly, and repeatedly threatened to release them publicly or to disrupt her business plans. Brown is asking a judge to prevent Belafonte from releasing the videos.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In loving Memory of

*Jesus "Chumbai" Itocog*



*We invite †Chumbai's family and friends to join us as we commemorate the First Anniversary of our beloved.*

*Daily mass will be offered beginning March 31st at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman. On the final day, Saturday, April 8th, Eucharistic Mass will be 6:00PM. Dinner will be served immediately after the mass at the Santa Soledad Church Social Hall.*

*Your presence, thoughts and most especially prayers are sincerely appreciated.*

*Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

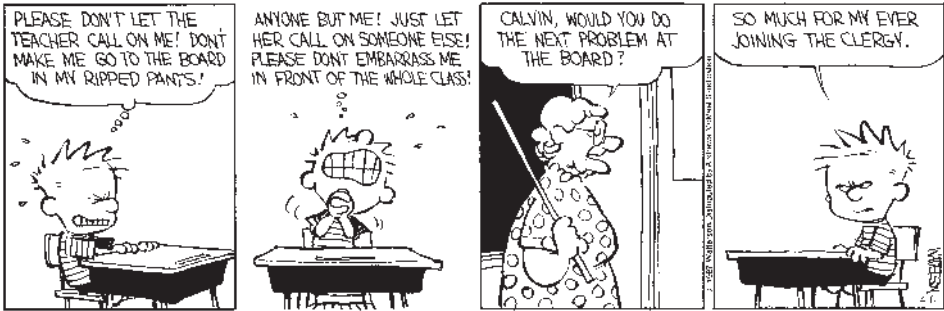
*Cora, Loremel and the Family.*



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



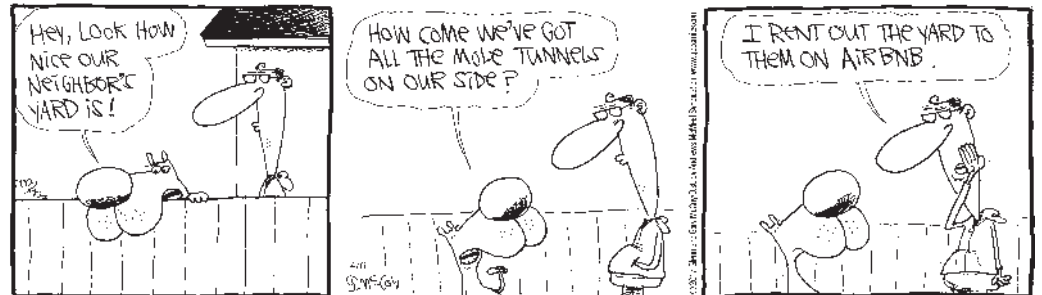
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Distant  
4 Jostle  
8 Oodles  
12 Salt Lake athlete  
13 Jacob's twin  
14 Furniture brand  
15 Ger- mane  
17 Norwe- gian saint  
18 "The Greatest"  
19 Gilbert or Sullivan, e.g.  
21 More alluring  
24 Lobbying org.  
25 Bird (Pref.)  
26 Com- mand to Rover  
28 Desensi- tizes  
32 Monthly payment  
34 Gullet  
36 Actress Jessica  
37 Gold mold

**DOWN**

39 Scribble (down)  
41 SSW opposite  
42 June honoree  
44 Drank slowly  
46 Like some humor  
50 Hogwash  
51 "The Rookie" actor  
52 Sushi  
53 Fish  
56 Farm unit  
57 Formerly  
58 Prior night  
59 "— she blows!"  
60 Prying

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 4-6**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Eliza Coupe, 36; Candace Cameron Bure, 41; Zach Braff, 42; Paul Rudd, 48.

**Happy Birthday:** Get in the game. Sitting on the sideline waiting for someone to ask you to play will not further your interests. Look for any opportunity to get involved. Use your strengths and skills to make a difference. Assess your partnerships and reset your strategy. Spend more time with those who have the same values and plans for the future as you. Your numbers are 4, 15, 21, 24, 33, 39, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You have to put your energy to work for you. Avoid fruitless conversations and get down to business. It's what you do that will count, not what you profess to want to do. Channel emotional energy into success, not a scuffle. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Look over your options and make choices based on what's realistic. Don't let your pride lead to a disagreement or changes that aren't necessary. Work alongside others in order to come up with the best solutions. Don't play favorites. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Stay away from discord and from people who are trying to coax you into something you don't want to do. Take responsibility for your personal happiness as well as reaching your goals. Express your thoughts and you'll attract like-minded people. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Uncertainty when dealing with unpredictable partners or groups that want too much from

you will be a sign to back away. Concentrate on using your knowledge and skills to help yourself as well as others. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Embrace change and do what needs to be done in silence. Don't waste time criticizing or complaining when it's up to you to do what's best for you. Be a leader and offer solutions instead of adding to the problem. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** A couple of changes to your residence will add to your assets. Stay within budget, do the legwork and you will pick up skills as well as learn something new. Don't let someone else's uncertainty hold you back. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Change can be good if it's reasonable and fits your current budget. A partnership will stabilize your personal, financial and emotional life. A willingness to share in order to raise your standard of living will lead to a better future. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You'll be tempted by what others do and say. Look at the big picture and make choices based on what you know, not what you hear. Make a point to do your own research and legwork and you will eliminate mistakes. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Make alterations at home or to the way you live that will lower your overhead, ensure your sanity and ease your stress. You can wheel and deal, but don't let anyone use emotional tactics to pressure you into making poor choices. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't let anger be what leads to change when taking action physically and making things happen should be your means to accomplish your goals. Change can be good when it's handled the right way. Consider your motives. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You have a voice. Don't let anger take over when you should be focusing on what you can do to make things better. Use your knowledge and experience to bring about logical alternatives that will create a greater revenue stream. ★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You'll be offered lots of ideas. Don't be too quick to jump into someone else's plans. Consider what's in it for you as well as how you can negotiate and manipulate the situation to benefit you. Stay calm. ★★★

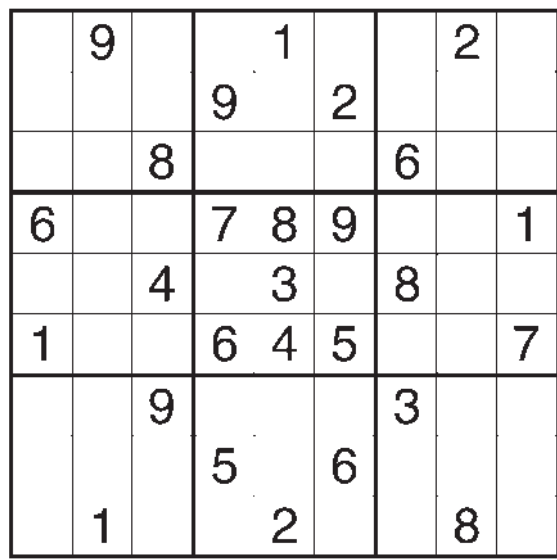
**Birthday Baby:** You are energetic, passionate and intense. You are exciting and bold.

Eugenia's websites -- [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

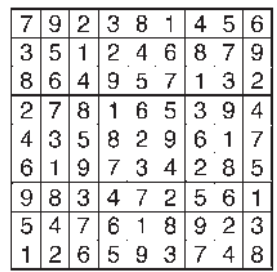


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/06

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LADIES' WEEKEND GETAWAY

Solution: 8 letters



©2017 Andrew Volkes. [www.wonderword.com](http://www.wonderword.com). Download the Wonderword Game App! 4/6

Adventure, Ages, Bachelorette, Bahamas, Bar, Beach, Camping, Canoe, Chats, City, Cruise, Dancing, Date, Enjoy, Escape, Facial, Florida, Food, Friends, Gamble, Games, Gifts, Gossip, Hike, Ideas, Kayak, Lake, Las Vegas, Limo, Manicure, Meditate, Mexico, Nightclub, Pals, Pampered, Party, Pool, Relax, Share, Shopping, Sisters, Swim, Tennis, Tour, Trails, Travel

Yesterday's Answer: Asking  
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 100 puzzles.)

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

**GALAXY II SNACK BAR LLC  
BAKER (1)**  
\*1-2 years exp. commercial baking  
\*At least high school graduate  
Please send resume to:  
Galaxy II Snack Bar LLC  
Call: 234-5542 to apply

**Liang's Limited Corporation  
Job Vacancy Announcement**  
2 - Cook. Must be familiar with Chinese cuisine.  
Able to speak Chinese language preferred.  
3 years experience required.  
Interested applicants please send resume to  
liansmile@yahoo.com or call 670-989-4676

**Garapan Building  
for  
RENT/LEASE**  
Call 788-7662(Amwar)

Francisco C. Cabrera  
dba Design Florist/Cabrera Funeral  
**Job Vacancy Announcement**

- (1) Flower Arranger
- Must have at least 3 years experience.
  - Able to work flexible hours.

All interested applicant must apply in person.  
Cabrera Center Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan

WHATZIT Solution: West Side Story

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?

You're looking at it!

Saipan Tribune 235-6397

**Okada Corporation  
dba Okadaya**  
Paseo De Marianas Garapan, Saipan

Okada Corporation is in need of the following:

- OPERATION MANAGER \$7.50-\$8.50
- HEAD CHEF - \$7.50-\$8.50
- COOK - \$6.55
- SERVICE CREW - \$6.55

Be able to handle business operations as well as kitchen duties to ensure the business efficiency & profitable operations. Must be passionate about food and have broad knowledge in Japanese cuisine included but not limited to Sushi, Tempura and Sashimi and specialty in making Hand Made Soba from the powder as well as other cultural dishes and different food preparations.

(Must have at least 5 yrs experience for operation manager).Must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standard. Can speak and understand Japanese. Have knowledge in Japanese products.

All applicants must provide, must have a reliable transportation, and must agree to drug test.  
If interested please contact by email to okadayasaipan@gmail.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BARTLEY )  
DAMASO DEMAPAN ) FCD-DI  
Petitioner, ) CIVIL ACTION NO.  
vs. ) 17-0007  
MYCA DIANNE LIANES )  
ORIGENES DEMAPAN ) SUMMONS  
Respondent, ) FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505419 CK, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at PO Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2017.  
/s/ Clerk of Court

(AMENDED)  
**Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda**  
Wednesday, April 12, 2017  
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room  
2nd Fl., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)

**A. Preliminary Matters**

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of 3/02/17 meeting minutes
- Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings*)

**B. Public Hearings:** None.

**C. Communication**

**D. Old Business**

- Board review of revised parking plan by Saipan Globe International Group, Ltd. dba Saipan Globe Hotel, Conditional Use Permit No. 2016-4038 and Zoning Parking Variance No. 2016-4303

**E. New Business**

- Proposed text and map amendments of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013
- Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

**F. Executive (Closed) Session**

**G. Miscellaneous**

- Other Matters
- Announcements
- Next Meeting

**H. Adjourn**

**Northern Marianas College**  
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696  
Website: <http://www.marianas.edu>

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**


**Announcement No. 17-021**  
**Position Title:** Dean of Administration & Resource Development  
**Department:** Administration & Resource Development  
**Pay Level & Step:** Executive Grade 02/Step 01-02  
**Annual Salary:** \$60,000 - \$62,100  
**Location:** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
**Opening Date:** April 03, 2017  
**Closing Date:** April 12, 2017 or Until Filled

**Re-Announcement No. 17-018**  
**Position Title:** Clerk III (Database)  
**Department:** Office of Admissions & Records  
**Pay Level & Step:** 04/Step 01-02  
**Annual Salary:** \$18,260.11 - \$18,899.21  
**Location:** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
**Opening Date:** April 03, 2017  
**Closing Date:** April 12, 2017 or Until Filled

**Announcement No. 17-022**  
**Position Title:** Research Assistant I  
**Department:** CREES  
**Pay Level & Step:** 10/Step 02  
**Annual Salary:** \$15,607.80  
**Location:** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
**Opening Date:** April 03, 2017  
**Closing Date:** April 12, 2017 or Until Filled

**Announcement No. 16-028**  
**Position Title:** Instructor, Business (Computer Applications)  
**Department:** Business  
**Pay Level & Step:** 32/Steps 01-02  
**Annual Salary:** \$41,527.83 - \$42,981.30  
**Location:** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan  
**Opening Date:** April 03, 2017  
**Closing Date:** April 12, 2017 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 03/31/17  
Closing Date: 04/13/17\*

JVA#17-006: Special Assistant to the Managing Director  
Annual Salary: \$25,000.00 to \$35,000.00\*\* UNGRADED  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-008: Statistics Specialist I  
Annual Salary: \$23,394.03 to \$24,563.73  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-009: Chief Accountant  
Annual Salary: \$45,000.00 - \$60,000.00 \*\* UNGRADED  
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

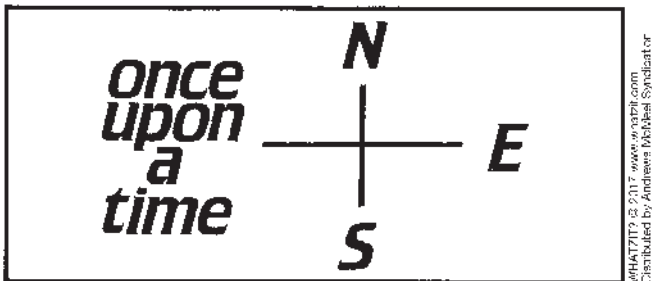
**\*\* The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.**

\*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

**WHATZIT?**<sup>TM</sup>

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatgames



# Westbrook ties triple-double mark; Thunder top Bucks



**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—For just a few moments, Russell Westbrook slowed down.

The Oklahoma City Thunder's mile-a-minute point guard took the time to soak in the atmosphere Tuesday night after he matched Oscar Robertson's single-season record with his 41st triple-double. The home crowd stood and chanted "MVP! MVP!" long after the assist, and he later waved to the crowd after play stopped.

"It's one of those nights, a special night, and something I definitely will never forget," he said. "I'm just truly honored to do it here, especially in Oklahoma City."

Westbrook finished with 12 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists to help the Thunder beat the Milwaukee Bucks 110-79. He clinched his seventh straight triple-double on an assist to Taj Gibson with 9:17 left in the third quarter.

"An honor to just be mentioned in a conversation with Oscar Robertson, the different things he did for the game of basketball to allow me to play the game today," Westbrook said.

Robertson set the record during the 1961-62 season, and Westbrook can break it Wednesday in Memphis. Westbrook said he just wanted to focus on the moment, yet his mind raced ahead to someday telling his unborn son about the experience.

## Warriors 121, Timberwolves 107

In Oakland, Klay Thompson scored 41 points for his 10th career 40-point game, Stephen Curry had 19 points and nine assists, and the playoff-ready Golden State Warriors ran their winning streak to 12 by beating the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Golden State could wrap up the West's No. 1 seed as soon as Wednesday night with a win at Phoenix and a Spurs' loss at home to the Lakers.

Andrew Wiggins scored 24



points for Minnesota, which couldn't keep up with Golden State's spiffy passing and contributions from so many players on both ends of the floor.

## Pacers 108, Raptors 90

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 18 of his 35 points in the third quarter, leading Indiana to a big win.

The Pacers (38-40) stopped a four-game losing streak that dropped them out of a tie for the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference to the very real possibility of missing the post-season.

DeMar DeRozan scored 27 points for Toronto (47-31), which had won two in a row. Jonas Valanciunas had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The Pacers trailed by 19 in the first half, but they opened the fourth quarter with an 11-2 run for an 88-77 lead.

## Jazz 106, Trail Blazers 87

In Salt Lake City, Gordon

Hayward scored 30 points for Utah, and Rudy Gobert added 20 points and 11 rebounds.

The Jazz controlled the game most of the night with a defensive effort that bottled up everyone not named C.J. McCollum, and the Blazers never found a consistent offensive flow.

On the other end, Hayward was an efficient 12 for 20 from the floor, including 4 for 6 from behind the arc. Gobert recorded his 57th double-double.

## Spurs 95, Grizzlies 89, OT

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 32 points and 12 rebounds, and the Spurs topped the Grizzlies in a matchup of likely first-round playoff opponents.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 15 points, including the tying basket with 1.6 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Memphis point guard Mike Conley left with 3:42 remaining in regulation after bump-

ing heads with Leonard under the basket.

## Wizards 118, Hornets 111

In Washington, John Wall scored 14 of his 23 points in the third quarter, helping Washington hurt Charlotte's playoff chances.

The Wizards (47-31) returned from a five-game trip and stopped a three-game slide. Tying Toronto for the third seed in the Eastern Conference, Washington dealt Charlotte a significant blow after it had crept closer to a playoff spot with a three-game win streak.

## Cavaliers 122, Magic 102

In Cleveland, LeBron James notched his second straight triple-double, Kevin Love scored 28 points and Cleveland warmed up for a big game in Boston by dropping 18 3-pointers in a victory against Orlando.

Kyrie Irving added 24 points and J.R. Smith had

19 for the Cavs, who made nine 3s and scored 43 in the third quarter to turn a tight game into a blowout and beat Orlando for the 17th straight time.

Cleveland didn't have any on-court issues following an emotional, double-overtime victory Sunday and won its third straight. The defending champions also moved into a tie with the Celtics atop the Eastern Conference.

## Nuggets 134, Pelicans 131

In New Orleans, Danilo Gallinari scored 28 points, and the Nuggets eliminated the Pelicans from playoff contention.

Gary Harris added 23 points, including a contested 3-pointer that gave Denver an eight-point lead inside the final three minutes. Nikola Jokic had 21 points and 12 rebounds to help the Nuggets remain on Portland's heels for the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots in front of Milwaukee Bucks guard Khris Middleton (22) and teammates Andre Roberson, left, and Steven Adams (12) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

## Kings 8, Mavericks 87

In Sacramento, Ben McLemore scored 21 of his 22 points in the second half, leading Sacramento to the victory.

Limited to one free throw in the first half, McLemore scored 11 straight points to end the third quarter, and then helped the Kings pull away in the fourth.

Willie Cauley-Stein had 12 points and 16 rebounds for the Kings.

## Knicks 100, Bulls 91

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points, and the Knicks snapped the Bulls' four-game win streak.

Courtney Lee had 14 points for New York, and Maurice Ndour added 13 points and 12 rebounds. The Knicks (30-48) had dropped seven of nine.

The Bulls (38-40) shot just 38.1 percent from the field and committed 15 turnovers. They dropped into a tie with Indiana for the seventh spot in the Eastern Conference, just a half-game ahead of idle Miami.

## Nets 141, Sixers 118

In Philadelphia, Brook Lopez and Jeremy Lin each scored 16 points to lead Brooklyn to a rare rout.

The 19-win Nets have been buried in last place in the NBA standings for most of the season and not even a recent surge could budget them out of the cellar.

Against the Sixers, Brooklyn scored buckets in the first half at the rapid rate of an All-Star Game. The Nets matched a franchise record for points in a first half with 81.

Brooklyn has won six of the last nine games and is a respectable 10-10 since March 1.

# North Carolina returns home to celebrate 6th NCAA title

**CHAPEL HILL, N.C.** (AP)—North Carolina dedicated the past year to redeeming itself for 4.7 agonizing seconds.

Now these Tar Heels will hang another banner from the Smith Center rafters.

Or the ceiling. But probably not the roof.

No longer haunted by the memory of a buzzer-beating loss in last year's title game, but galvanized by a misstatement from their most decorated former player, the Tar Heels returned home Tuesday with their sixth NCAA Tournament

trophy, which they earned a night earlier by beating Gonzaga in the championship game.

"This year," senior Isaiah Hicks said, "we did it."

Thousands of fans poured into the arena and onto the court before the team's flight had even landed at nearby Raleigh-Durham International Airport, and they cheered fanatically every time live footage of the team's motorcade was shown on the video scoreboards.

When the individual players were introduced, they show-

ered Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year Justin Jackson with chants of "one more year."

"It just didn't seem like we were going to get back to where we wanted to be, and you all did a great job," said guard Joel Berry II, still wearing the net from the title game around his neck. "We just basically did our thing, and we came back home with it."

This was the first time the

team and its fans were together inside the Smith Center since a victory over Duke in the regular-season finale exactly one month earlier - a night made memorable by Michael Jordan's surprise appearance at halftime to announce a partnership between the athletic department and his Nike line.

During his remarks to the crowd, he said of the football program: "The ceiling is the roof."



The Tar Heels (33-7) climbed as high as No. 3 in the AP Top 25 and were sixth in the final media poll, won the Atlantic Coast Conference's regular-season title by two games and earned No. 1 seeds in both the conference and NCAA tournaments.

They won their last five NCAA Tournament games by an average of 5.6 points, earning a one-point victory over Oregon in the Final Four before pulling away to beat Gonzaga and claim their latest championship while capping a season overshadowed by events from both the near and distant past.



# Yankees homer twice to back Sabathia in win over Rays



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — CC

Sabathia was sharp in his first start, Ronald Torreyes and Chase Headley homered and the Yankees earned their first victory this season after beating the Tampa Bay Rays, 5-0.

Opening his 17th major league season, the 36-year-old Sabathia allowed three singles in five innings. Five relievers finished the five-hitter.

Most of the offense was supplied by the bottom of the batting order. The 5-foot-8 Torreyes, in the lineup because of a shoulder injury to Didi Gregorius and batting ninth, hit New York's first home run this season, a two-run drive off Jake Odorizzi in the third that drove in 6-foot-7 Aaron Judge.

Odorizzi was charged with four runs and seven hits in six innings.



New York Yankees' CC Sabathia goes into his delivery to the Tampa Bay Rays during the fifth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 4, 2017, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Gerardo Parra hit a three-run double.

Holland tossed a perfect ninth for the Rockies, who have opened the season with 8 1/3 scoreless innings from their bullpen. The former Royals reliever is back on the mound after missing the 2016 season following Tommy John surgery.

Parra and Mark Reynolds, a pair of former Brewers, look comfortable back in Milwaukee.

Tyler Anderson (1-0) struck out eight and allowed five runs in 5 2/3 innings for the Rockies.

## Indians 4, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Carlos Santana led off with a home run, Carlos Carrasco struck out seven in his first start since breaking a bone in his right hand and the Cleveland Indians held on for a 4-3 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

Carrasco missed the playoffs for the AL champion Indians after getting struck on his hand by a line drive last September, and then had some elbow discomfort this spring. The right-hander limited Texas to two runs and four hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Cody Allen allowed consecutive doubles by Nomar Mazara and Mike Napoli starting a 25-pitch ninth inning before striking out Rougned Odor, pinch-hitter Jurickson Profar and Joey Gallo for his second save. Allen struck out the side in the opener around a triple by Elvis Andrus.

## Giants 8, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Gorkys Hernandez drove in four runs and San Francisco bounced back from blowing a save in its season-opening loss.

Johnny Cueto went five innings for the win, despite giving up home runs to Jake Lamb and Paul Goldschmidt. Lamb's two-run shot splashed down in the Chase Field swimming pool.

Cueto allowed four runs and six hits, struck out five and walked two.

After new closer Mark Melancon blew a save in Sunday's 6-5 defeat, four Giants relievers combined to allow one hit over four scoreless innings.

## Padres 4, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Clayton Richard pitched eight impres-

sive innings, Yangervis Solarte homered and San Diego turned four double plays.

The Dodgers were limited to five hits after pounding out 14 in a 14-3 rout Monday, when they set a franchise record for opening day by socking four home runs.

Corey Seager, last season's NL Rookie of the Year, went 0 for 4 with a strikeout and hit into two double plays for Los Angeles. Kenta Maeda gave up three runs in five innings.

## Cubs 2, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Albert Almora Jr. robbed Matt Adams of a home run and Javier Baez made a terrific sliding stop on Kolten Wong's game-ending grounder, sending Jake Arrieta and

the Cubs to their first win of the season.

It looked as if the Cardinals had tied the game in the seventh, but Almora tracked Adams' deep fly ball to the wall and hauled it in with a leaping grab at the top of the fence in center.

St. Louis had a runner on first in the ninth when Baez went into short right field to take a hit away from Wong. The Cardinals challenged the bang-bang play, but the call stood.

Arrieta pitched six innings of one-run ball, helping the World Series champions bounce back from a wild loss on opening day. Wade Davis worked the ninth for his first save with the Cubs.

## Angels 7, Athletics 6

In Oakland, Danny Espinosa hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning to rally the Angels to the win.

The late comeback came on a night when Angels pitcher Matt Shoemaker made his first appearance since being struck in the head by a line drive off Kyle Seager's bat in Seattle last September. Shoemaker returned seven months to the day after an injury that forced him to have surgery to stop bleeding in his brain.

Shoemaker allowed solo home runs to Jed Lowrie and Ryon Healy in five innings of four-hit ball.

Espinosa drove an 0-2 slider from Ryan Dull (0-1) over the fence in right-center.

## Astros 2, Mariners 1

In Houston, Brian McCann and Marwin Gonzalez homered to back a solid start by Lance McCullers and help the Astros to the win.

McCann's homer off Hisashi Iwakuma put Houston up 1-0 in the third inning, and Gonzalez broke a 1-all tie with his solo shot to left-center in the sixth.

McCullers, slowed by injuries for chunks of last season, allowed one run and struck out seven in six innings. Ken Giles got three outs for his second save.

## Rockies 6, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Greg Holland earned his second save in two days with Colorado, and

## Spieth looks to make new Masters memories after '16 meltdown

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—On a warm, sunny afternoon in Amen Corner, Jordan Spieth stepped up to No. 12 and stuck it right next to the flag.

A year too late. "I really could've used that one 12 months ago," Spieth quipped Tuesday, mustering a smile before heading over the Hogan Bridge to take care of a tap-in delivered with an Arnold Palmer-like flourish.

The Augusta National patrons roared with laughter.

But for anyone who takes a bit of self-deprecation during a practice round as a sign that Spieth has gotten over the green jacket that got away, think again.

The sting is still there. You can hear it in his voice. "Certainly you don't want to hold stuff in," Spieth said. "That would be crazy."

If not for a meltdown at the shortest hole on the course, a

mere 155 yards, the 23-year-old would've been talking Tuesday about his quest to become the first player to win the Masters three years in a row.

Instead, he was reminiscing again about the biggest disappointment of his young, flourishing career.

In 2016, Spieth made the turn on the final day with a commanding five-shot lead. He gave away some of that cushion with back-to-back bogeys at the 10th and 11th, but it was at the par-3 12th, the devilish little hole known as Golden Bell, that he lost the tournament.

First, he splashed his tee shot into Rae's Creek. Then, from the drop zone, he chunked another one into the water. Just like that, he was on the way to a quadruple-bogey 7 that ensured it would always be one of those Masters remembered more for how it

was lost than how it was won. (In case you've forgotten, the beneficiary of Spieth's collapse was England's Danny Willett, who is the first to acknowledge "it was a strange one last year.")

Back in December, when Spieth returned to Augusta National for the first time since that fateful day to play a round with friends, he was thinking about what happened on the last day of the Masters. When he played the 12th on Tuesday, in front of a large gallery but merely for practice, it was on his mind again.

When the tournament begins, he expects more of the same.

"It will surely be there and it has been there," said Spieth, wearing a green shirt that would be a perfect match for the jacket he hopes to don again on Sunday. "It is one

of the many tournaments I've lost given a certain performance on a hole or a stretch of holes. It happens in this game. I stepped up today, first day back with the crowds, and hit it to about (a foot away), which is nice. Obviously, it's not the tournament."

While the 12th will always be a part of Spieth's story at the Masters, his feel for this place is far more positive than negative.

He's played this tournament three times and never finished lower than second. This is where he captured his first major with a dominating 18-under score in 2015, sparking a run at the Grand Slam and one of the greatest years in golf history.

Even the hole where it all fell apart has provided plenty of good vibes. Before

the finale a year ago, Spieth had played Golden Bell at 1-under through his first 11 rounds at the Masters, including three birdies.

"I really thoroughly enjoy this place and this week," he insisted. "I seem to have more fun each year when I play this golf course."

Spieth's enthusiasm got more pronounced when asked specifically what makes this course so appealing to him.

"I like the elevation changes, the sidehill lies, the pull to Rae's Creek," he said, not even pausing for humorous effect. "It's imaginative golf. It's feel golf. I really enjoy that. When I go away from technical and toward feel, it's an advantage for me."

He certainly looks like one of the players to beat this week, even though he ceded the No. 1 spot in the world rankings to Dustin Johnson.





# Romo retiring, to work as lead analyst for CBS

DALLAS (AP)—Tony Romo couldn't bring himself to use the word "retired" and didn't have an answer for whether he would have decided to replace another former quarterback in Phil Simms as lead analyst for CBS if he hadn't lost his starting job in Dallas.

This much Romo did know: Teams were interested in him continuing his chase for an elusive Super Bowl, and he couldn't pass up a chance to go straight from the field to a No. 1 booth with Emmy Award-winning play-by-play man Jim Nantz.

"It reminds me of my rookie year where you really don't know anything," Romo said. "You're walking into a brand new situation and you can kinda play the game. I can kinda talk. But this is a completely different world. I like that challenge."

Romo's release by the Cowboys and his deal with CBS were announced simultaneously Tuesday—roughly four weeks later than Dallas owner Jerry Jones told the franchise passing leader he would turn him loose to pursue other teams.

The delay gave Romo time to consider his future after two injury-filled seasons, which cost him the job he had for 10 years when rookie Dak Prescott directed a club-record 11-game winning streak after Romo's preseason back injury. It was his fourth back injury since 2013.

Now the married father of two young boys with a third child on the way has chosen the path taken by two former



In this Dec. 20, 2008, file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo walks down the tunnel to the playing field at Texas Stadium before an NFL football game, in Irving, Texas. A person with knowledge of the decision says Romo is retiring rather than trying to chase a Super Bowl with another team after losing his starting job with the Cowboys. The all-time passing leader for the storied franchise is headed to the broadcast booth after considering those offers.

Dallas quarterbacks—Don Meredith of "Monday Night Football" fame and three-time Super Bowl winner and Hall of Famer Troy Aikman, the lead analyst for Fox since 2002.

"It wasn't a simple decision," said Romo, who will work Thursday night and Sunday games. "It got easier when I started to really get excited about working with CBS. That part of it got the

juices flowing and started to get you excited to be a part of a team and go attack a craft."

As for that retirement thing, Romo left little doubt that his playing days were likely over while also saying there was "absolutely interest" from other teams.

Romo said his personal list was topped by Houston, which has unproven Tom Savage as the starter after dumping high-

priced Brock Osweiler in a trade following one less-than-impressive season.

"I could play tomorrow. I'm making this decision with the choice to be able to play as well," said Romo, who turns 37 this month.

"Do I envision coming back and playing football? Absolutely not. I'm committed to CBS for good. Do I think I'm going to get some calls? I'm

sure I will."

The four-time Pro Bowler who rose to stardom after going undrafted in 2003 out of lower-division Eastern Illinois is the franchise leader with 34,183 yards passing and 248 touchdowns. He's fourth all-time in passer rating (97.1).

But Romo never parlayed his regular-season success into deep playoff runs the way Roger Staubach and Aikman did before him, going 78-49 as the starter but 2-4 in the post-season, with no road victories and no trips to the NFC championship game.

Romo said his release was a financial consideration—he would have had to repay a portion of his signing bonus upon retirement—and he praised Jones despite the sudden change of plans

when free agency opened early last month.

"As an organization, we did what he asked us to do in terms of his release, and we wanted to do what was ultimately in his best interest and in the best interest of his family," Jones said. "He is a young man who is just getting started on a long journey in life. All the best, my friend."

CBS Sports Chairman Sean McManus said the network planned to keep Simms and was working on finding another role for their lead analyst the past 19 seasons.

McManus said he first thought Romo had promise in that role after Romo gave him a breakdown of the New England-Seattle matchup during a Super Bowl party before the Patriots beat the Seahawks two years ago. He called Romo's sudden ascension a "very manageable risk."

"Will he be better Week 6 than he is Week 1? Yes he will be," McManus said. "Will he be better in Year 2 than he is in Year 1? Yes. But if we didn't have the faith in Tony, we didn't have the faith in the fact that he can be an outstanding analyst, we wouldn't be taking this risk."

Ultimately, Romo said he didn't trust himself to meet with teams that might view him as the missing piece for a Super Bowl title.

"I've known my nature and I've known my competitive side," said Romo, whose departure has been expected since a November speech conceding the Dallas job to Prescott. "And if I get in front of some of these teams, I'm going to be enticed to really want to go to play."

Romo, who was signed through 2019, had a \$14 million base salary and a \$24.7 million salary cap hit for the Cowboys this season. The release will reduce Dallas' cap hit to about \$19 million, split roughly in half over two seasons.

game. However, it was not up to the big task and fell way short after making only two. After Bank of Saipan got its second run, Delbert Sablan relieved Dikito at the mound and the closer struck out the next three batters to cap the Little Legals lopsided win.

Meanwhile, in the Junior League division, the Ol'Aces also eased past Bank of Saipan, 14-1.

Shane Mallens pitched in no relief for the Ol'Aces in six innings and threw a two-hitter. He also fanned out seven batters in routing Bank of Saipan, which scored only in the second inning with Chase Tenorio reaching home off an Ol'Aces error at third base.

## MP

From Page 24

this Saturday, both TanHoldings and MP United have one game left (April 22) in the double-round robin competition and a win by the latter against Kanoa (2-2-3) will still give MPU the title even if it loses to the former this weekend.

Kanoa gained only its second win this season following a 4-3 triumph over Shirley's

FC. Brian Lumbao canned the winning goal for Kanoa in the 54th minute, while Jim Kurt Maniago hit two goals for the team, and Merrick Toves chipped in one. Brandon Tenorio, Romel Mendoza, and Matthew Tawagon scored for Shirley's (3-0-5).

Meanwhile, in the boys U17 age group, MP United is ahead with its 6-0-0 record and will have to wait for its match against TanHoldings on April 22 to get its hand at the

division title. MP United also need to win its game against Matansa (1-1-4) this Saturday to put more pressure on TanHoldings.

TanHoldings is MP United's closest rival for the spring championship, as the former now has a 6-0-1 card after shutting down Paire last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, 4-0.

Four different players lit up the board for TanHoldings with Anthony Fruit breaking

the ice in the 24th minute and Mareko Tekopua giving the squad a 2-0 advantage three minutes later. Mark Esalan then made it three in row for TanHoldings with his conversion just three minutes into the 40-minute second half, while Paire (0-0-6) continued its silence. John Robert Tam closed out for TanHoldings with his goal in the 74th minute.

In the other U17 division game, Kanoa and Matansa battled in a scoreless draw.

## MCS

From Page 24

Macaranas, and Louisa Han. Tomoko Shimizu coached the Lady Knights.

Mt. Carmel finished the four-team tournament undefeated, as it also swept Marianas High School and Kagman High School in the double-robin preliminary. Then in the double-elimination playoffs, the Lady Knights advanced to the finals after topping Tinian. The visiting THS spikers gave the favored MCS a run for its

money in the first set of the semis match before the Lady Knights pulled off a 26-24. In the second set, Mt. Carmel played better en route to an easier 25-11 victory.

With the loss, Tinian, had to meet MHS in a rubber and the former took a 25-11, 25-23 triumph to get a second crack at the Lady Knights.

In the finals, Tinian managed to keep MCS within striking distance in the first half of the opening set, however the Lady Knights proved to be much steadier in the homestretch and pulled off the

7-point win. Mt. Carmel then got off to a good start in the second set for a 12-point victory and a sweep of the title match.

Shimizu attributed MCS' success in the PSS tournament and in the private school competition to the team's chemistry.

"They've been playing together for a long time. They know what to do when situations get tough and they know each other's game. Against Tinian in the finals, I could say they played their best game this season. They played very good both on

offense and defense, as they worked together on receiving, serving, and spiking the ball," Shimizu said.

Meanwhile, the boys competition will be played this weekend also at the Ada gym. Mt. Carmel will try to make it a double celebration for the school, as it battles two squads from Marianas High School and one each from Kagman and Saipan Southern High School. There is also big possibility that Tinian and Rota will join the weekend tournament, according to organizer Nick Gross.



# 38th Annual Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



First placer Klei Andreas, right, of Palau is joined at the podium by runners-up Lolmei Uong, left, and Saipan Swim Club's Jinie Thompson during the awards ceremony for the girls 11 to 12 2.6K race in the 38th Annual SSC Ocean Swim held in the waters near Naked Fish in Susupe late last month.



Boys 11 to 12 winner SSC's Jinnosuke Suzuki, center, poses with second finisher Juhn Tenorio and third placer Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero of Tsunami Saipan.



From left, girls 13 to 14's 3.6K runner-up Jin Ju Thompson of SSC, Tsunami Saipan's Aika Watanabe, and Palau's Ikelau Misech.



SSC's Kento Akimaru, who won the boys 15 to 24's 5.2K race, is flanked by runners-up and brothers Santiago, left, and Tanner Poppe of Manhoben Swim Club.



From left, SSC's Julie Anne Chavez, Tsunami Saipan's Maria Batallones, and Manukai Athletic Club's Anna Kate O'Donnell are all smiles after receiving their medals in the girls U8 600m race.



From left, boys U8 600m race winners Kouki Watanabe, Aasish Dangol, and Michael Miller pose for a photo.



Champion Ashley Dangol, center, of Tsunami Saipan is joined at the podium by runners-up Kaith Lynn Chavez and Savita Sikkel of SSC.



Palau's Noel Keane, center, and Malcom Shae Gaymann, right, and Manhoben Swim Club's Mark Imazu pose with their medals in the boys 13 to 14's 3.9K race.





Westbrook ties triple-double mark; Thunder top Bucks

PAGE 20

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Yankees homer twice to back Sabathia in win over Rays

PAGE 21



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017

## MCS beats Tinian in girls v-ball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**M**t. Carmel School gained its second championship in the girls high school this season after ruling the 2016-2017 Public School System Volleyball Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The Lady Knights, who also reigned supreme in the 2016-2017 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Volleyball League, swept Tinian High School in the finals, 25-18, 25-13, to clinch the title. Karleen Reyes and Jan-Nasia Travilla led MCS' finals win and were joined on the team by Keona Camacho, Ya Han, Karen Sato, Angela Jun, Quina Flores, Dayna

See MCS on Page 22



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Mt. Carmel School's Karleen Reyes is seen in this file photo going for a return during a high school volleyball game. Reyes and her teammates defeated Tinian High School in the finals of the 2016-2017 Public School System Volleyball Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

### Little Legals hammers Bank of Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Little Legals walloped Bank of Saipan, 29-8, during their Major division game in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



A 16-run top of the third inning allowed the Little Legals to crush Bank of Saipan and end the weekend match after only four innings via 10-run mercy rule.

Before its third-inning juggernaut, the Little Legals was just ahead by 2, 6-4, and once fell behind, 2-4, after one complete inning. Anton Aguon had two RBIs and scored one run for Bank of Saipan, while Joaquin Lizama added one run for the team's first and only taste of the lead.

Ryu Aldan hit an RBI double and then reached home plate on a passed ball for the Little Legals at the

bottom of the first inning. The leftfielder then blasted a three-RBI triple in the second inning to grab the upper hand from Bank of Saipan. Jason Agulto chipped in one run at the top of the second, while Bank of Saipan had a 1-2-3 at the bottom.

After playing good defense against Bank of Saipan in the second inning, the Little Legals then turned to its offense to break the game wide open. Eight of the Little Legals' top of the order batted twice and one went at bat three times at the top of the third, while seven made it home two times. Seven of the Little Legals runs were earned ones, while the rest were recorded off Bank of Saipan's errors.

Anton, who closed out for Bank of Saipan, finally stopped the bleeding for his team, when he struck out Jon Diaz for the third out.

See LITTLE on Page 22

### MP United closing in on two division titles



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club is in a good position to win two division championships in the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League.

In the boys U14 age group, MP United stays on top with its 6-2-0 win-draw-loss record following a 6-3 victory over Paire FC (0-2-5) last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Rohan Basnet powered MP United past Paire after scoring four goals. He had his first two shots in the second and 10th minute and drilled back-to-back goals (52nd and 68th) to close out for MP United. Rintaro Miyawaki, David Meyers Jr., and Jon Villagomez added one goal apiece

for MP United. Kaden Church earned two goals for Paire, while brother Max contributed one.



MP United now has 20 points and ahead by two wins and 5 points (20-15) against TanHoldings (4-3-1), which also won its game last week versus Matansa, 2-1. Aloyzeu Angeles and Oliver Fajardo scored in the fifth and 62nd minute, respectively, for TanHoldings, while Lolobeyond Benito knocked in the only goal for Matansa (2-3-3).

TanHoldings and MP United will collide in an important game this Saturday. An MP United victory will give the club the division crown, while a loss will keep TanHoldings in the race for the spring championship. After their duel

See MP on Page 22



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Little Legals' Kaipo Dikito prepares to pitch, while a Bank of Saipan runner gets ready to leave second base during the bottom of the fourth inning of their game in the Major division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
MP United's Rohan Basnet, left, waits for the ball, while Paire defenders stay close to him during their boys U14 division game in the first round of the NMIFA youth league at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.